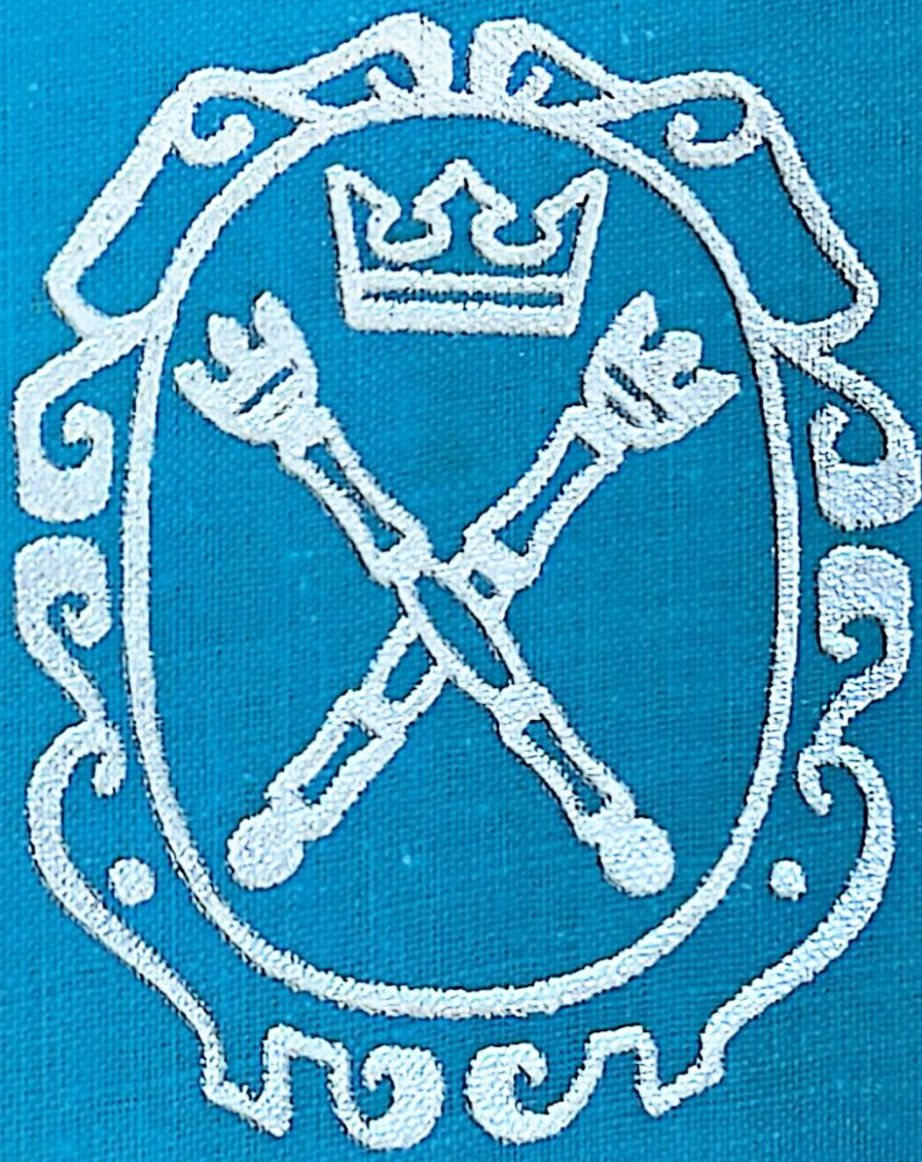
CRACOW AND ITS UNIVERSITY

600-lecie Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego

1000-LECIE PAŃSTWA POLSKIEGO

CRACOW AND ITS UNIVERSITY



CRACOW
AND ITS UNIVERSITY

BY
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Cracow — a town of an over millenary history has played a most prominent rôle in the evolution and culture of the Polish people. Closely associated with a great number of events of national importance, it has more that any other Polish town come to reflect both the bright and the dark periods in the history of our State. It has also become a great centre of humanistic, cultural and artistic values, radiating over the whole extensive area of Polish lands. A moment of particular significance in the town's history was on 12th May, 1364 when King Casimir the Great founded the "Academy of Cracow", the first university in Poland, and one of the oldest in Europe.

One of the glorious memories for the city has been that on the very day King Casimir the Great was founding the University of Cracow, an official diploma was issued by the municipal authorities granting the town's support to the newly-founded college.

In the course of the twenty years of People's Poland the very aim and meaning of science has changed: now, incomparably more than in any other period of Poland's history it is aimed at serving the nation, simultaneously reflecting the attitude of the People's Government to science and culture in our country in general and in our old city in particular. The great contribution brought by Jagellonian University to the build-up of progressive thought and in the building of People's Poland has been highly estimated by the Polish Government, a fact which found expression in the creation of new institutes and colleges, a kind of a second foundation act to the University which for 600 years has been Cracow's soul and badge — the pride of the municipal community, and the support of Polish science and culture.

But we, the men and women of to-day must not restrict ourselves to the survey of past glory. While deeply respecting the historical heritage of our city, we build up a future founded upon new principles. Our town is not only a national centre of science and culture, but also a centre of the big industry — with metallurgical, chemical, engineering and other works, producing now twice as much iron and steel per annum as all Poland before the second world war. Now the principal signposts symbolizing contemporary Cracow are the two great combines — the metal-

lurgical combine at the Lenin Foundry and the "combine" of science represented by the eleven colleges and academies, with Jagellonian University heading the list. Better and better, closer and closer the two combines collaborate with each other: the new industry and the great technics — with science and research.

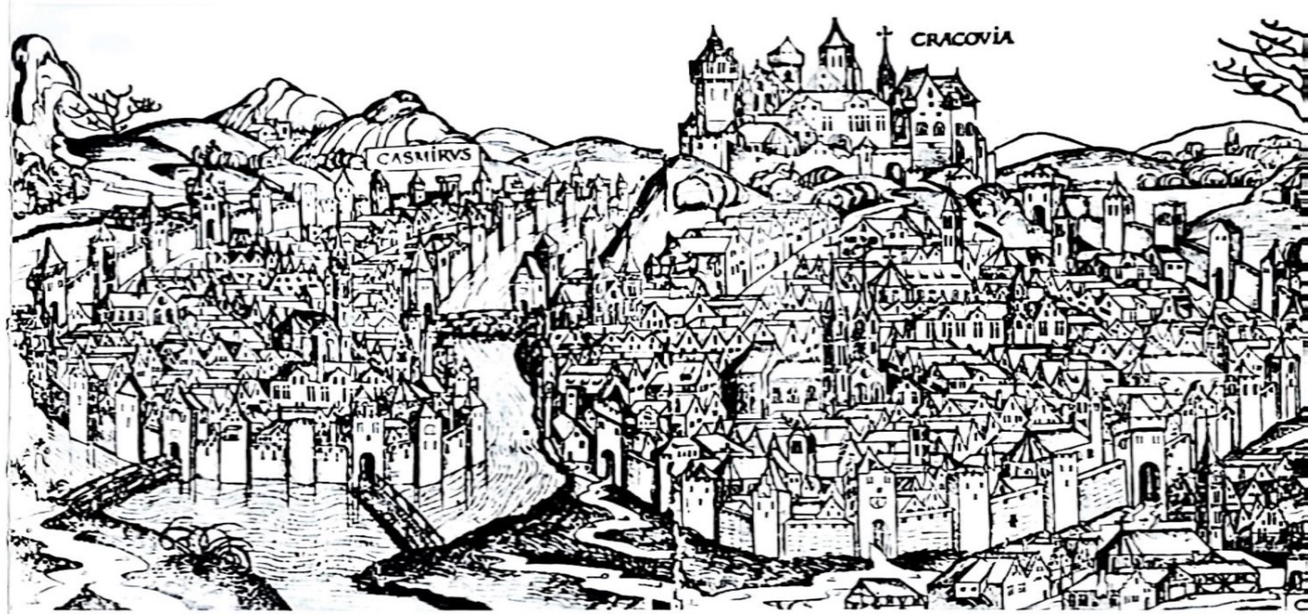
Research is now an almost material force contributing towards the further proggress of the new system. A new group of managers and directors of production is educated, so much in demand in national economy and culture. Universities and colleges develop the sciences so closely connected with production, so essential to social progress, — and, on the other hand, the humanities. As regards the latter, we consider them to be equally indispensable for the complete shaping of man and the nation as a whole: with the progress of industry and agriculture, and the ensuing improvement in the living standard, the demand for humanistic values, far from decreasing, is quite markedly growing.

The foundation of the Academy in 1364 was not only a necessity, but above all a result of the strong state power, of the dynamism of economic progress, which required that the developing trends and ideas should be organized in one consistent whole. This triangle of forces symbolized by Wawel — the Market-Place — and the Academy put the foundation for the golden age of the Polish State, built up on the work of the Polish nation.

During the past twenty years, for the first time since many centuries, Cracow and its University have restored that fine balance once achieved during the early Renaissance period. Now the process is reverted: the centre of science and culture has been invaded by the modern industrial revolution, and the gigantic motor of economic progress has been put in motion within the State of workers joining their effort to build up great industry — with the Lenin Combine at the top of the list.

Within the creative thought and work of our post-war Poland the great triangle of forces has been revived again: State and social activities coupled with a dynamic economic growth and progress in science and culture build up together in the 20th century, in the epoch of socialism, new solid foundations for the future golden age.

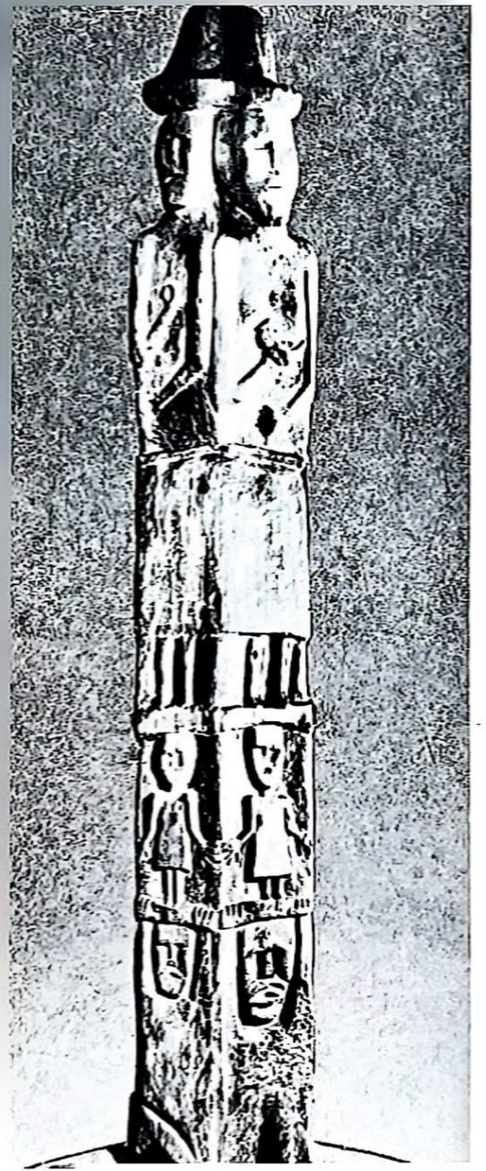
ZBIGNIEW SKOLICKI
Cracow Town President



Panoramic View of Cracow from Schedel's Chronicon Mundi (1493)
photo: W. Gomula

CRACOW. HISTORY AND MONUMENTS OF THE PAST

The prehistory of the first human settlements on the hills upon Vistulan meanders reaches back, as results from archaeological research, to the Palaeolithic age (about 200,000 years ago). Cracow, for some time the settlement of the tribal state of the Vistulans (8th-9th cent.), was later conquered by the powerful Great-Moravian State (9th cent.). Upon the downfall of the latter early in the 10th century



and after a short period of Czech reign it was included for good into the Piast monarchy, to become shortly afterwards the central town of the State. It was here (as shown by recent research), and in particular on the territory of the Cracow Market-Place that the principal commercial and travel routes were crossing: from Prague to Russia and the Baltic coast, the saline route to Wieliczka, and the way west, towards Wroclaw and Magdeburg. The legendary story of the town, the old tales recorded in Kadłubek's Chronicle (13th cent.) have recurrently provided sources of inspiration to poets and writers as well as given rise to many a scientific conjecture. Since it was first recorded in Ibrahim ibn Yacub's report in 966, Cracow has never ceased to be in the centre of historical interest. During the 11th to 13th centuries it grew considerably in range becoming the most important town of the Piast dynasty. When Wladislaw Łokietek reunited the temporarily divided country and was crowned Polish King on the Wawel Mound in 1320, he finally consolidated the position of the town, the site of the Royal Castle standing upon the Mound side by side with the majestic Cathedral, where the Kings were crowned — and buried.

The architecture and art of Cracow of the pre-Romanesque and Romanesque periods (until the middle of the 13th cent.) are now much better known owing to recent archaeological research. Only a few remnants have been preserved from that distant time. Admittedly, the oldest monument of Romanesque stone architecture is the small St. Saviour's (Salvator) Church in the "Zwierzyniec" district. It has been suggested that the preliminary stages in the construction of that church (upon

Światowid (8th-9th century A. D., The Archaelogical Museum
photo: D. Zawadzki

the plan of a Grecian cross) should be traced back to the turn of the 9th—10th centuries. The Wawel Mound, too, has preserved till the present day some fragments of pre-Romanesque buildings: the Virgin Mary's Rotund (dating presumably from the late 10th cent.), exposed now within the complex of castle buildings, and relics of an unidentified secular building.

The Romanesque style proper has left in Cracow more numerous traces: in the history of the town of the royal residence on the Wawel Mound, it marked the first stage of an animated activity in stone architecture, founded upon a uniform artistic conception.

Among the early-Romanesque edifices mention should be made of the so-called Boleslaw Chrobry Cathedral whose fragments have been preserved in the lower parts of the Wawel castle. During the 12th century another cathedral was built, founded by King Wladislaw Herman. Of that three-naved basilica in the present crypt of the Gothic Cathedral have been left "St. Leonard's Crypt" and the lower parts of the Silver-Bells Spire. The most valued monument of Romanesque art in Cracow is St. Andrew's Church in Grodzka St., built as a Court collegiate at the end of the 11th century: its massive castellated walls were even able to withstand the devastations of the town during the Tatar invasion in 1241. Beside St. Andrew's Church another most remarkable church is the small St. Adalbert's (Wojciech in Polish) Church finely situated at the very outlet of the Central Market-Place: no later restoration has been able to obliterate its original Romanesque provenience.

St. Andrew's Church: Façade in Romanesque Style
photo: H. Hermanowicz

St. Adalbert's Church
photo: D. Zawadzki

The Gothic style was introduced to Cracow at a comparatively late date. After the devastations of 1241, the restoration of the former settlement was undertaken in 1257 according to the model of the new town-system (the so-called location of Cracow on German law), which gradually (13th—14th centuries) turned it into a Gothic town.

The chequered street system was enclosed into the ellipse of municipal fortifications. The principal place was conspicuously assigned to the Central Market-Place, an almost regular square (its dimensions being 200×200 metres), one of the largest and most beautiful mediaeval market places in Europe.

The long struggle for the crown and for the reunion of the divided Polish State (terminated with the victory won by Wladislaw Łokietek) temporarily weakened the position of the town, while the fact that some townsmen of German origin gave their support to Bailiff Albert's rebellion (1311) for a time turned the rulers' favour from it. Nevertheless, the process of State integration under the reign of Casimir the Great initiated a period of economic and cultural development for the town. The King himself took a personal interest in the building and expansion of the town: thus at the outskirts of Cracow he founded two new, for a long time separate municipal organisms — Kazimierz and Kleparz (also known as Florence), now incorporated into the town. Cracow's political consolidation under his reign found a spectacular expression in the famous 1364 Congress of the Christian rulers, held in Cracow. It was celebrated at many splendid receptions and tournaments, described by an eye-witness, the knight Guillaume de Machaut, Court poet to Peter I, King of Cyprus, in

The Barbican
photo: D. Zawadzki

A Bird's Eye View of Cracow's Old Town
photo: A. Piotrowski

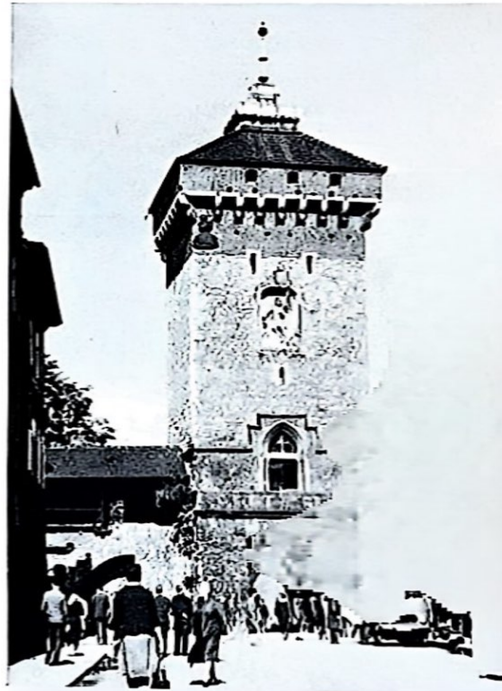
his rhymed chronicle, "La prise d'Alexandre ou Chronique du roi Pierre".

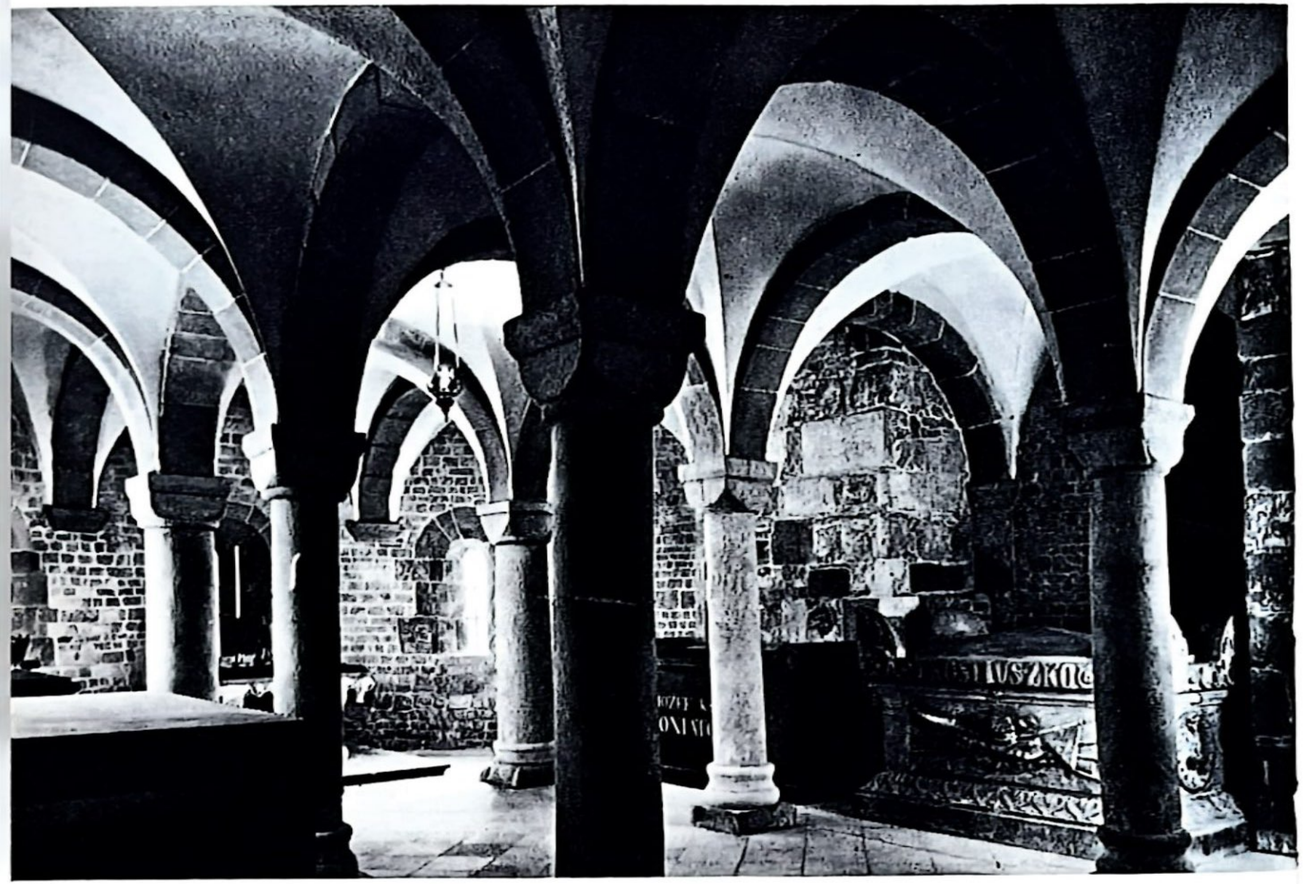
The 15th cent. brought the Polish-Lithuanian Union and the defeat of the Teutonic Order of Prussia, which in consequence led to a considerable increase of State power. The reigning Jagellon dynasty resident at the Wawel castle took good care of the town and of the University, founded still by the last King of the Piast dynasty, Casimir the Great. The cultural development of Cracow, in the 15th century an important centre of Gothic culture, was of quite universal scope. Thus e. g. Cracow was the cradle of the printing trade for Poland (first prints, 1473) and even for all East and Central Europe, forestalling in that respect many European countries, England among them.

During the 14th and 15th centuries the town gained many new edifices, of both secular and sacred character. Of the powerful fortifications encircling the town some have been preserved till present: St. Florian's Gate with three towers and a remnant of the defense wall, and the Barbican erected late in the 15th century, an extremely rare specimen of the late Gothic castellated architecture.

The principal town edifices were erected within the vast square of the Market-Place: the Town Hall with its majestic tower, preserved till today, the Cloth Hall known as "Sukiennice" at the centre, and the Parish St. Mary's ("Mariacki") Church, the finest of all Gothic sacral buildings in Cracow, whose construction took nearly two centuries (13th—15th cent.). The brick-built basilica has at its front two towers of which the taller (81 m.) covered by a sharp-pointed helmet

St. Florian's Gate
photo: J. Domański





t. Leonard's Crypt at the Wawel Cathedral, ab. 1100
photo: S. Kolowca

with a typical crown of small spires dominates with its sky--reaching silhouette over the streets of Cracow. Every hour the ancient trumpet call is repeated from the taller tower, a traditional custom dating from the late 15th century. The interior of the church is equally impressive: most remarkable is the main altar, designed and carved in wood by master Wit Stwosz, one of the most important late Gothic sculptures in Europe.

The churches built in Cracow during the 14th and 15th centuries, of an architecture more modest than the lofty French cathedrals, represent a national variety of Gothic art. It was characterized by a typical combination of brick and stone as well as by the so-called pillar-and-scarp system, a constructive solution used instead of resistant arches, commonly applied in West European architecture. Especially noteworthy is the Wawel Cathedral built during the 14th century, a church which throughout Polish history has kept inside its walls the national traditions, in its twofold rôle of Polish Reims and Polish Saint-Denis. Under the reign of King Casimir the Great in the Kazimierz district (called after him) two large Gothic churches were erected, the St. Catherine's and Corpus Christi churches; later, in the 15th century, the charming Holy-Cross Church adjoining the plantations was built.

The secular Gothic architecture is represented mostly by University buildings. The life of Cracow's "Quartier Latin" for long centuries has been centred round the ancient St. Ann's Street. At the corner of Jagiellońska and St. Ann's streets in the course of the 15th-century restoration works, the

Virgin Mary's Rotunda a fragment
photo: S. Kolowca

magnificent edifice of Collegium Maius has grown, that most renowned among the University buildings. Inside you will see a large and beautiful Late-Gothic arcaded courtyard. The numerous Gothic hostels which once had housed University students, decayed during the 16th century and have not been preserved. The only extant Collegium Iuridicum in Grodzka St. has kept only slight traces of Gothic architecture after it had been thoroughly restored in the Baroque style, as a result acquiring, among other additions, its finely arcaded courtyard.

The parts left of King Casimir's Gothic castle have been included into the new large Renaissance castle. In the Kazimierz district another striking monument of the past has been preserved: the old synagogue, built in Gothic-Renaissance style, a relic of Jewish culture which since Casimir's times was steadfastly evolving until this growth was suddenly checked by the devastations brought by the Nazis.

The 16th century was admittedly the golden age for the town. Under the reign of the last Jagellons, Cracow became a true Renaissance town, widely imbuing new ideas, adopting new customs, offering hospitality to numerous humanists, adherents of the Reformation. We can only imagine how picturesque and animated was life in the capital of a country which maintained good and lively relations with West Europe on the one hand, and with coast of the Black Sea on the other. The Prussian Homage by Prince Albrecht of Brandenburg to the Polish King (1525), the numerous celebrations which followed victorious wars and battles, royal returns and coronations as well as the splendid tournaments held in honour of the King's stay in Cracow — all these festivities

The Wawel Mound: General View Overlooking the Town

photo: S. Kolowca

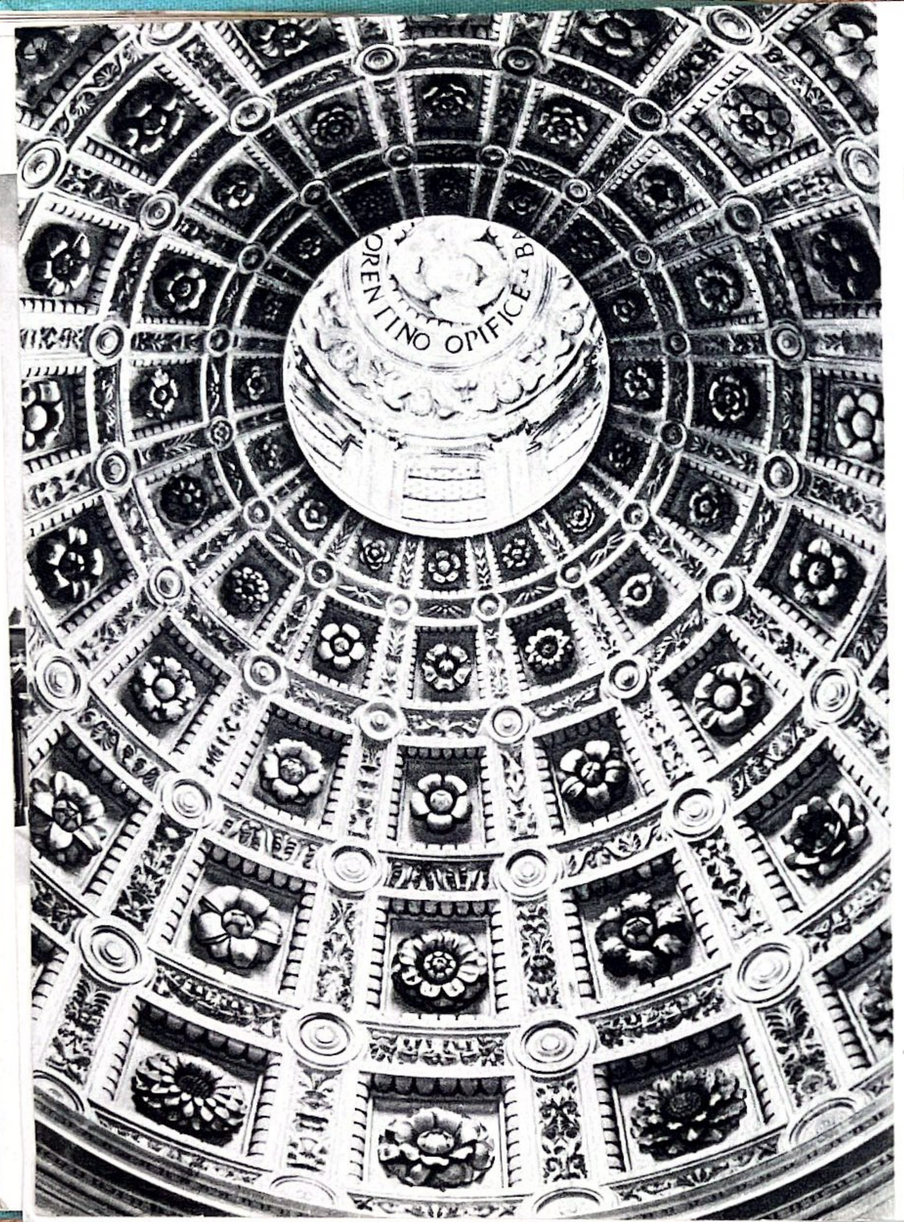
Wawel Cathedral seen from the South. In the foreground the cupola of the "Zygmuntowska" Chapel
photo: S. Kolowca

provided ample opportunity to show the affluence of the town and the wealth of its inhabitants.

But this period of splendour was to be followed by a time of decline. The town's position began gradually to decrease. The changes in trade-routes, the anti-municipal policy of the Polish landed gentry, considerably impaired the general status of the town; finally, the direct blow came when the permanent royal residence was transferred from Cracow to Warsaw (1609). The town lost thus the diverse advantages conferred upon it by the presence of the Royal Court.

The art of the Renaissance in Cracow flourished under the reign of King Sigismund the Old (1506—1548) and his wife, the Italian Bona Sforza. The new castle, whose construction was directed by Florentine masters and personally supervised by King Sigismund, was terminated in 1536. The tremendous scope and the impressive size of the castle, the nobility of its proportions, its handsome slimness make the Wawel castle a real architectonic jewel of Renaissance art. Its interior has undergone various modifications, but the castle has maintained the exquisite line of its original architecture, withstanding recurrently the devastations of war and the long years of misuse at the hands of the Austrians after the partition of Poland. Now after the plunder and destruction of the 17th—19th centuries it has been possible to restore the magnificent Wawel halls to their former beauty. One of the most striking exhibits in the castle is the wonderful collection of 136 hand-woven tapestries, unique on a worldwide scale, made in the 16th century to King Sigismund August's order after a design by Michael Coxien, at the renowned

Head of King Casimir the Jagellon, by Wit Stwosz. Fragment of Tombstone (1492)
photo: S. Kolowca



Cupola of the "Zygmuntowska" Chapel at the Wawel Cathedral
photo: S. Kolowca

The "Zygmuntowska" Chapel: Tombstones of King Sigismund the Old and King Sigismund August
photo: S. Kolowca

workshops of Brussels. The Wawel art collection, the treasury and the fine armoury call for a special visit. Indeed, there are not many places in the world combining as harmoniously as the Wawel castle does, a majestic architectonic frame with historical traditions and a great variety of finely exhibited works of art.

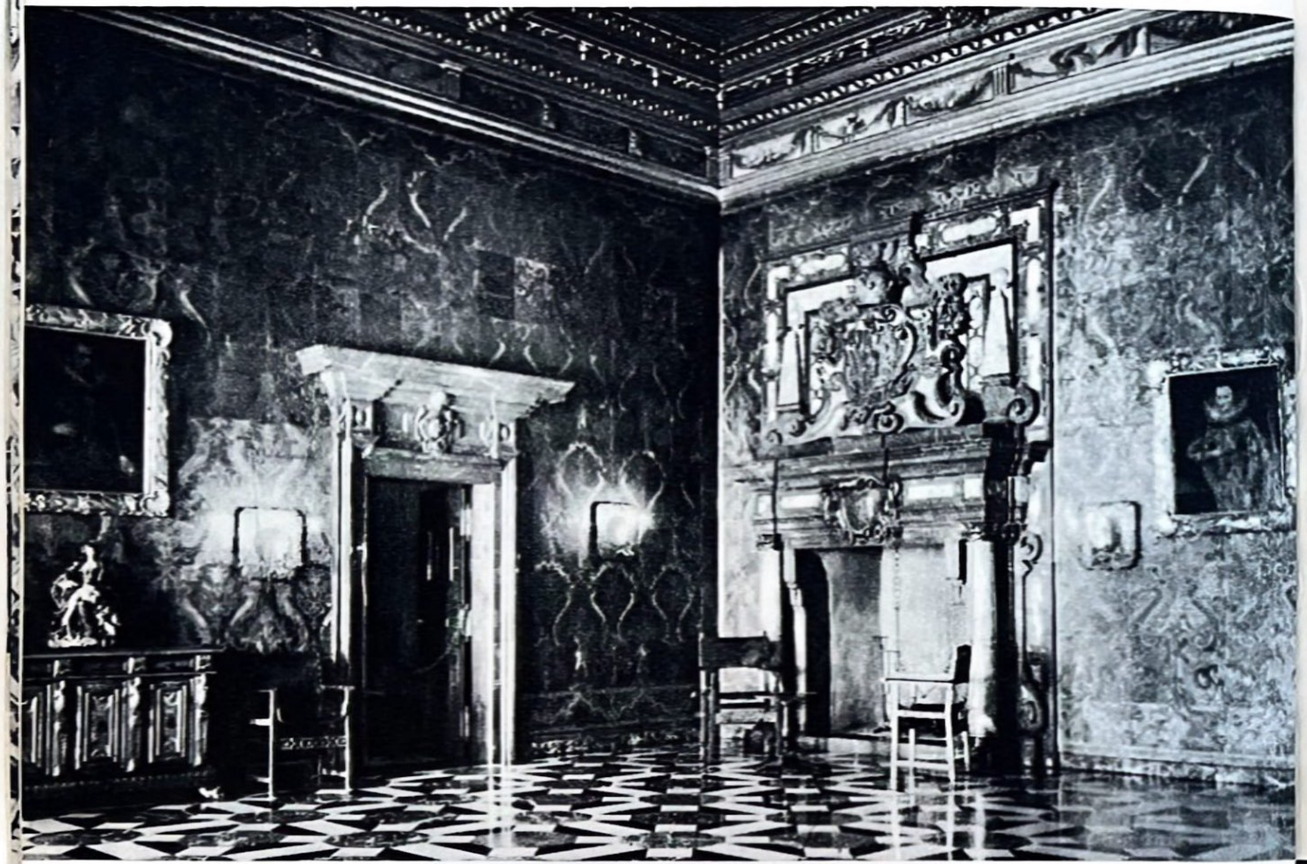
The story of the Wawel Cathedral was different. Here, unlike it was in the castle, the Renaissance did not attack the Gothic directly: the scope of its activity was limited, and yet it was able to win a great victory. Into the bulk of the Cathedral the "Zygmuntowska" Chapel was added, with the tombs of the two last kings of the Jagellon dynasty, both Sigismunds (or Zygmunts in Polish) by name. The chapel, widely known for its masterly architectonic composition and the wonderful sculptures adorning it, was designed and carved by the Florentine Bartolomeo Berecci.

When from the royal Court upon the Wawel Mound the new art began reaching out towards the town, the latter had already a definite uniform character of its own: the houses, built almost exclusively in the Gothic style, filled up the narrow streets and left hardly any room for new additions. That was why the Renaissance style left its stamp upon the town mainly under the form of ornaments and decorations; soon it deteriorated, especially in painting, into mannerism. The Gothic houses were altered by the addition of Renaissance portals, frequently supplemented with some philosophic quotation. In most cases the façades were entirely rebuilt in new proportions, while Renaissance windows, attics and sgraffita combined to give them their fine characteristic

outline. As to sacral architecture, although the Gothic style prevailing in the churches of Cracow was left unchallenged, it was added upon by new Renaissance elements: many side chapels and crypts were built in, usually after the pattern of the "Zygmuntowska" chapel. The interiors, formerly built in a purely Gothic style, were now adorned by painters and above all by sculptors representative of the Renaissance style. The artists were sometimes of foreign, mostly Italian, origin, and sometimes Poles, the most outstanding of whom was Jan Michałowicz of Urzędów, sculptor and architect.

In the 17th century the affluent and well-populated town under the rule of the Vasa dynasty was drawn into war and had to witness a series of disturbances brought about by the aristocratic oligarchy, the virtual rulers of the country. However, and even though the capital of Poland was transferred to Warsaw, the first decades of the century were spent still in the afterglow of the Polish "golden age", the 16th century. The crucial period came with the Swedish invasion: Cracow, though heroically defended under Stefan Czarniecki's command, was conquered by the invaders (1655—1657) who plundered and devastated the town. Sinking into ruin and decay, it remained in that condition until the 18th century when the North War brought about still deeper destruction. Yet it must be recorded that this decaying Cracow of the 17th century, witnessed in 1661 the publication of the first Polish periodical, the "Merkuryusz Polski".

The Baroque art in Cracow did not reach the heights attained by the Polish Renaissance. The altered rôle and status of the town combined with the fact that it had been already



The Royal Wawel Castle: Birds' Hall
photo: H. Hermanowicz

Golden Cup inlaid with Cameos. Wawel Treasury
photo: W. Gottwald

Hussar's Armour, 17th century.
Wawel Castle Armoury
hoto: W. Gottwald

Arras of the "Food" series at the Royal Castle
photo: W. Gottwald

Stanislaw Tęczyński wearing Polish Costume, 17th century
photo: W. Gottwald

closely built over during the 15th and 16th centuries within the castellated walls encompassing the city, as a result made the Baroque style applicable mainly to transform the existing old houses, not to build new ones. Thus the changes consisted chiefly in the added façades, portals, Baroque arcaded courtyards on the outside — and Baroque sculpture, polychromy and stucco ornaments introduced inside. The situation was somewhat different in sacral buildings. In fact, quite a number of churches were newly built, both during the 17th and the 18th century, by the aristocracy and the clergy, mostly by monasteries and cloisters. The Baroque style was introduced into Cracow architecture by the Jesuits whose handsome St. Peter and Paul's Church, the most "Roman" of all Cracow churches, was a monumental edifice, perfectly suited to the purposes of Jesuit Counter-Reformation propaganda. The other noteworthy Baroque churches are: the academic St. Ann's Church, located at the very heart of the University Quartier, especially noted for its late-Baroque interior, and St. Michael's, finely situated upon the "Skałka", a hill overlooking the Vistula, not far from the Wawel.

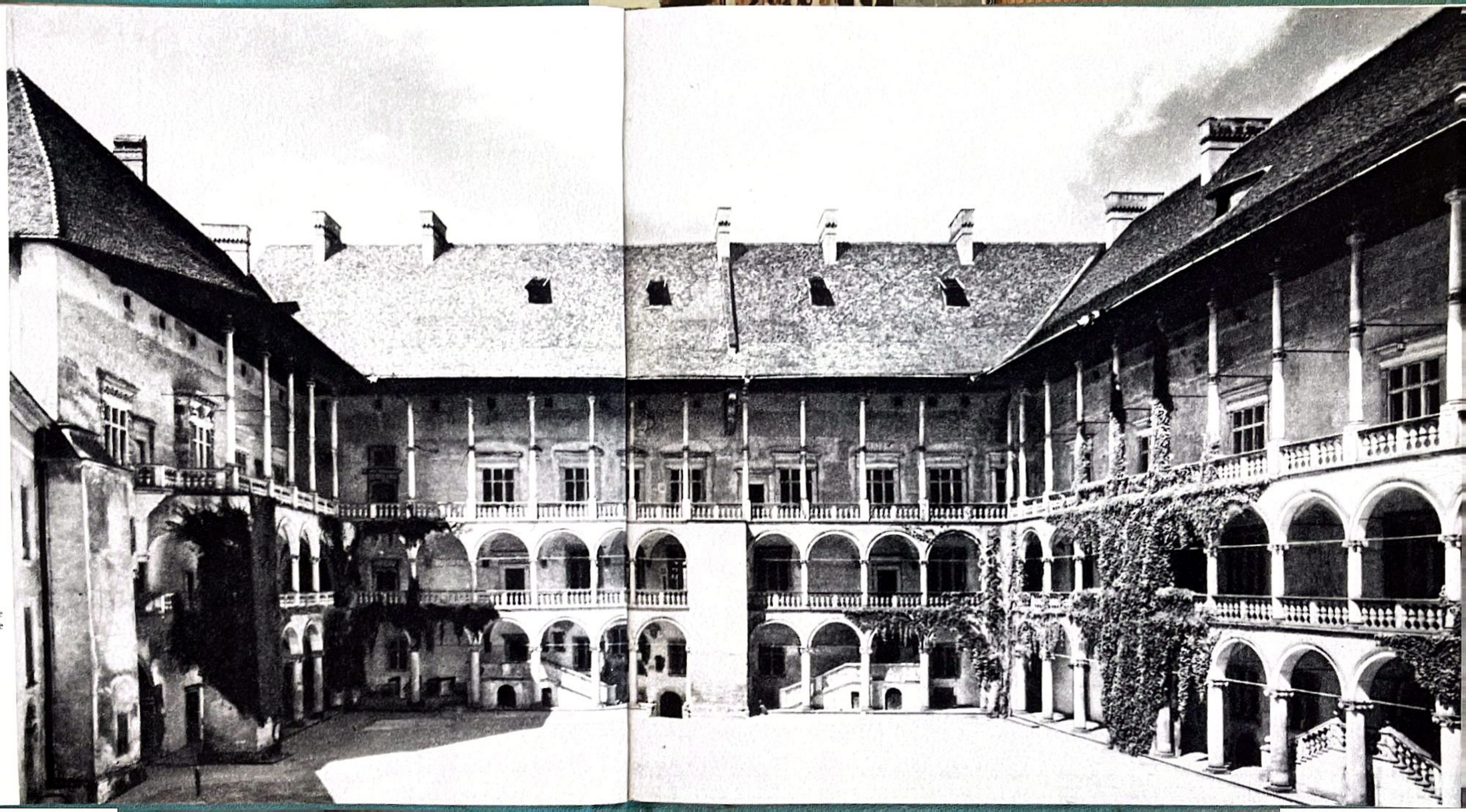
In the 18th century the long reign of the Saxe dynasty failed to restore the town to its former status; later, at the threshold of Stanislaw August Poniatowski's reign the years of the Bar Confederacy, combining social retrogression with patriotic slogans, turned Cracow once more into a besieged and invaded town. The Bar confederacy, directed against Russian interference into Polish affairs, found support in the diplomatic and military assistance of the French.

The brief, but extremely fruitful period of intellectual

animation brought to Poland by the Age of Enlightenment, was not without effect on Cracow; however, unfavourable economic conditions did not allow to introduce the new, classicist style on a large scale into the architecture of Cracow. Several aristocratic mansions were reconstructed in that style, while the University, then newly regaining its past splendour as a result of Hugo Kołłątaj's wise reform, acquired some new buildings: the Collegium Physicum, the Astronomical Observatory. Among the good effects brought about by the renovation of the University was that Cracow could play an active part in public affairs, in the struggle for reforms in a country whose independence was seriously jeopardised by the neighbouring states. It was in Cracow that upon the downfall of the Constitution of 3rd May, 1791 and the political crime of the second partition, the first outcry for freedom and independence was heard. On 24th March, 1794 in the Cracow Market Place near the Town Hall the Insurrection Act was read and Tadeusz Kościuszko took a solemn oath to use his power of national leader to defend the sovereignty of the Polish State. And though his insurrection was defeated and Cracow was annexed by Austria, still the memory of that heroic effort has remained at the core of the revolutionary traditions of the town.

During the 19th century Cracow had to witness many radical changes: the Austrian occupation, the Warsaw Duchy, the Free Town of Cracow (1815—1846), and the return of Austrian police rule, followed each other in rapid succession: finally, Galicia was granted autonomic rule (after 1867) which improved the general standard of the town, allowing

Tombstone of Casimir the Great, the Founder of the Cracow Academy: Wawel Cathedral
photo: S. Kolowca



Arcaded Courtyard of the Renaissance Castle at the Wawel Mound

photo S Kolowca

The Royal Wawel Castle: Vault in the Deputies' Hall, also known as Heads' Hall
photo: S. Kolowca

for its further evolution. During the first half of the 19th century, and particularly during the Free-Town period, Cracow was among the most important Polish centres of clandestine underground activity for national and social liberation. This conspiratorial movement found an expression in the attempted Cracow Revolution of 1846, whose most significant political acts were passed in the Cracow Market Place.

The appearance of the town was considerably altered: during the early years of the century the well-intended but rash idea of putting order into the decaying town brought about a destructive dismembering passion, as a result of which many an old fine Gothic house has been disfigured or destroyed. In 1850 a gigantic fire broke out and in ten days devastated a considerable part of the centre and a number of valuable works of art, particularly inside the churches of St. Dominic's and St. Francis's orders. After 1860, owing to the efforts of two eminent Town Mayors, Dietl and Leo, Cracow grew and developed, but in architecture no prominent attainments were noted, mainly because of the general eclecticism of the 19th century architecture. We must mention, however, the Słowacki Theatre (1893), a handsome building resembling in style the Opéra de Paris, and the main University building, Collegium Novum, a Neo-Gothic edifice (1883—87) with a finely designed interior, housing the principal offices of the University authorities, the auditoria, and a large hall adorned with valuable pictures.

The cultural development of Cracow towards the end of the 19th century, irrational though it was — Cracow virtually

Gold travelling cup and plate, first half of 11th century. Wawel castle treasury
photo: W. Gumuła

Hall Interior with Arras at the Wawel Castle
photo: W. Gottwald

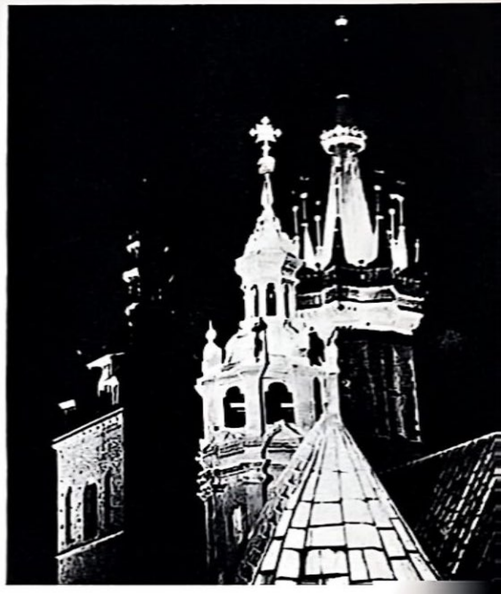
Twilight Hour: the Cloth -Hall and the Town-Hall Belfry
photo: H. Hermanowicz

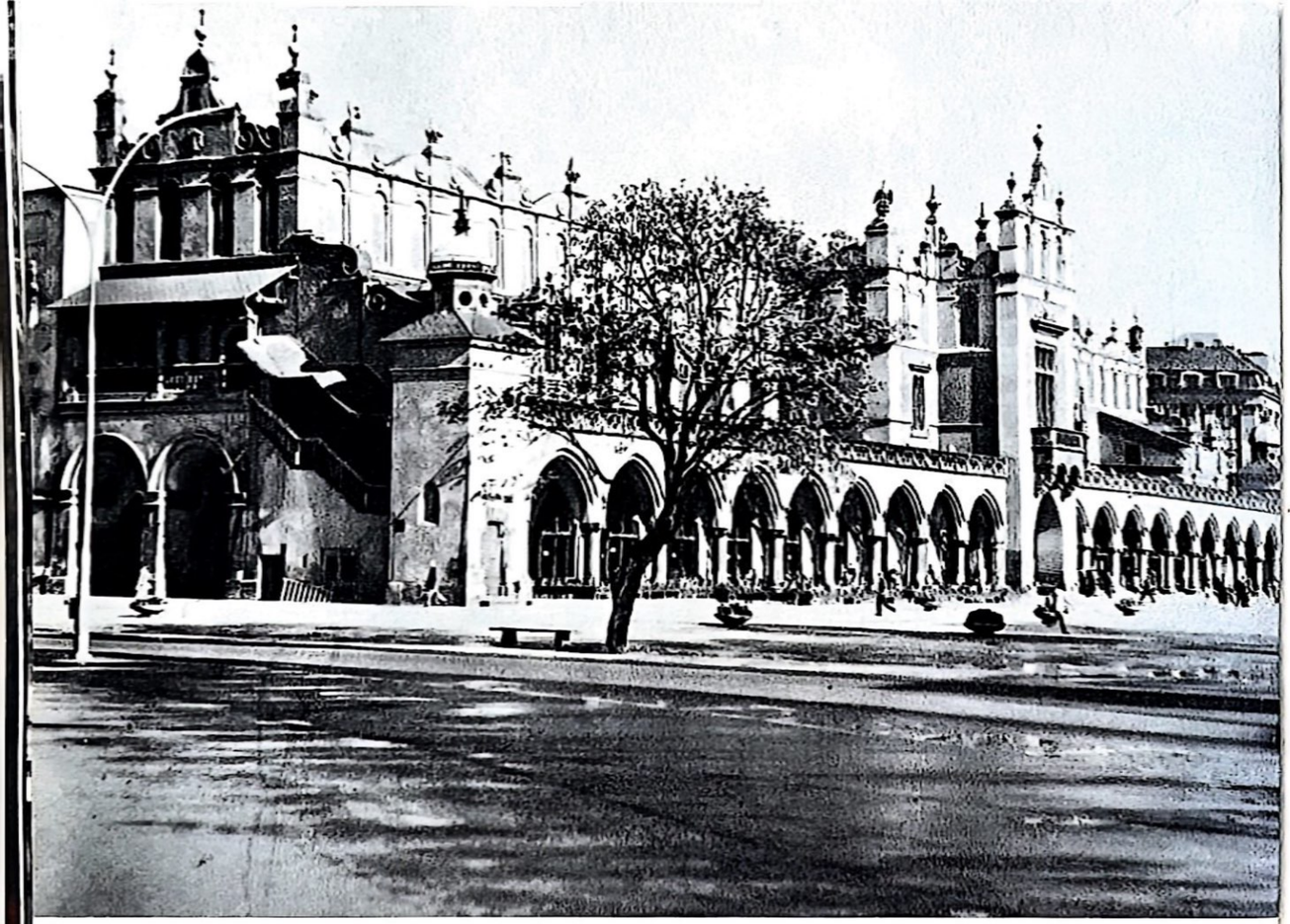
was a provincial town incorporated into the Habsburg empire— nevertheless exerted a great influence upon the whole of Polish intellectual activity. The progress in science was matched by the progress of the theatre, steadfastly evolving since the middle of the century. Stanisław Koźmian, the eminent theatre director and producer, contributed much to this development, staging a series of the classical repertoire, of both Polish and foreign authors (Shakespeare, Goethe, Musset). Cracow witnessed also the first stages of the breath--taking career of Helen Modjeska (Modrzejewska in Polish) whose tremendous dramatic talent won the greatest artistic success in the United States during the last two decades of the past century. The small Gothic Holy Cross Church adjoining the Słowacki Theatre holds Helen Modjeska's epitaph (1910). Her name has been also commemorated in the name of Cracow's Old Theatre, the oldest theatrical stage in Poland, whose traditions reach back to the 18th century.

A man of great importance for the cultural life in Cracow was the painter Jan Matejko, for long years the director of the Academy of Fine Arts: combining patriotic sentiment with a high artistic range, he exerted an immense influence upon the further evolution of Polish painting. His work was carried on under changed historic circumstances by his famous disciple Stanisław Wyspiański to whose activities Cracow owed the best centre of "secession" art in Poland — painter, playwright, poet, and reformer of theatre in one person. Finally, Cracow was a town "infected by literature", where the Young-Poland movement was flourishing, the stylish fin-de-siècle, with its incomparable artistic atmosphere.

"Wianki" (Midsummer Night on the Vistula)
photo: T. Nowicki

The spires of St. Mary's at night
photo: T. Nowicki





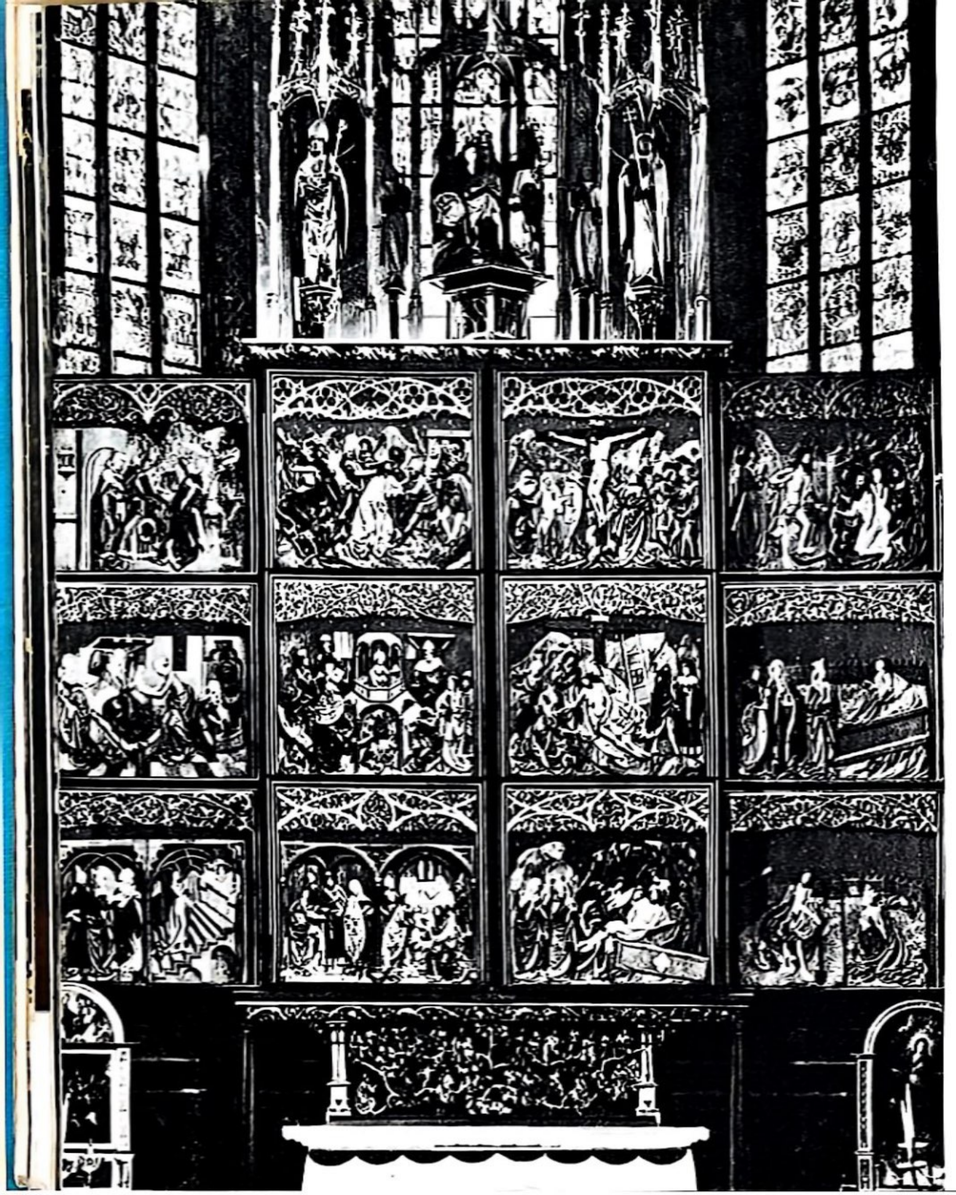
The Cloth-Hall
photo: J. Domański

Artists, poets and writers used to meet at the "Green Balloon" cafe in Floriańska St., where till the present day the tradition has persisted, a good cabaret show being staged there in the evening. When speaking of literary Cracow one must record that this was the town where the young Joseph Conrad (Korzeniowski) once attended the old Nowodworski High School. Forty years later he returned to the town of his boyhood to spend there the historical day, 30th July, 1914, just at the brink of World War I — in the quiet halls of the Jagellonian Library, musing over the manuscripts and letters of his father (Polish poet, victim of Tsarist repression, particularly noted for his translations of Victor Hugo). Later, Joseph Conrad was to write of Cracow: "It was in that old royal and academic city that I ceased to be a child..."

Adam Mickiewicz called Cracow "Rome of the Slavs". Still during the Free-Town period the remains of the national heroes Tadeusz Kościuszko and Prince Józef Poniatowski were entombed in the royal crypt on the Wawel Mound. During the second half of the 19th century Cracow became the place where national jubilees and celebrations were held. The fact that the body of the national poet Adam Mickiewicz was brought from France to Cracow and the celebrations which followed it (1890) had a considerable effect upon the consolidation of the Polish national feeling under the three partition rules.

The progress in industry and the ensuing marked increase in the number of factories led to the formation of a conscious working-class in Cracow. It was here that the first socialist groups were formed; later the year 1880 was to bring the

St. Mary's Church
photo: J. Domański



St. Mary's Church. Fragment of the Main Altar by Wit Stwosz
photo: S. Kolowca

trial of Ludwik Waryński who was accused together with thirty-four other socialists, tradesmen, schoolboys and undergraduates. At the trial Ludwik Waryński delivered a speech presenting his socialist programme founded upon the Marxian theory. Later still, in 1912—14 V. Lenin stayed in Cracow, directing from there the growing revolutionary movement in Russia. On 22nd April, 1913 he delivered (at 16, Szewska St.) a lecture on "Contemporary Russia and the working-class movement".

Cracow was the first large town in Poland to be freed from the Austrian rule. Since that day of liberation, 31st October, 1918, a new period was initiated for the town. It was now independent but the situation was far from easy. The economic crises, the workers' public manifestations frequently ending in bloodshed, left their stamp upon the inter-war period. But even at that time Cracow managed to expand, and two new colleges were founded, the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, and the High School of Economics.

The tragic September began the saddest chapter in the history of the town. On September 6th, 1939 the Nazi divisions marched in, and Cracow — by Hitler's order — was turned into the capital of the "General Gouvernement for occupied Polish territories". Hans Frank was appointed General Governor. Innumerable acts of terror were to mark his cruel rule. The Nazis exterminated the Jewish population, executed people without cause or trial, fiercely combated every trace of Polish culture; the most valuable works of art were sent to Germany, the famous Wit Stwosz altar among them.

But the struggle against the occupiers went on: under-

St. Mary's Church, Main Altar sculptured by Wit Stwosz (1477—1489)
photo: S. Kolowca

St. Catherine's Church
photo: S. Kolowca

ground organizations were formed in conspiracy, such as "Polska Ludowa" (People's Poland) out of which the Polish Workers' Party (P. P. R.) was to be subsequently created. The underground armed organizations carried out upon the town's territory a number of bold actions, among them an attack at the German night clubs and another, attempting the life of SS commanders and police officers in General Gouvernement. Teaching in Polish was carried on in conspiracy, both on the secondary-school and on the University levels.

In 1944, faced with the imminent Red-Army campaign, the Nazis planned to destroy the Wawel castle as well as many other important building, both of historical and economic interest, undermining them with dynamite. Cracow was spared destruction through the rapid campaign and the town-encircling manoeuvre of the Red-Army divisions under the command of Marshal Konev: on 17th January, 1945 the town was liberated. Now the cemetery of the Soviet soldiers and the monument adjoining the Barbican record their devotion to the cause which has permitted to save the beauty of old Cracow.

Warsaw was in ruin and the principal national problem of the time was the material restoration of the country: as a result Cracow temporarily was turned into a sort of cultural capital of Poland. During the first two years of post-war reconstruction Cracow was the abode of nearly all that was representative of Polish science, literature and art.

The development of Cracow steadily progressing since the very beginning of people's government has evoked both the pride of the town's inhabitants and the admiration of numerous

St. Dominic's Order Church. Philip Callimachus' tombstone (1496) by Wit Stwosz
photo: M. Rostworowski

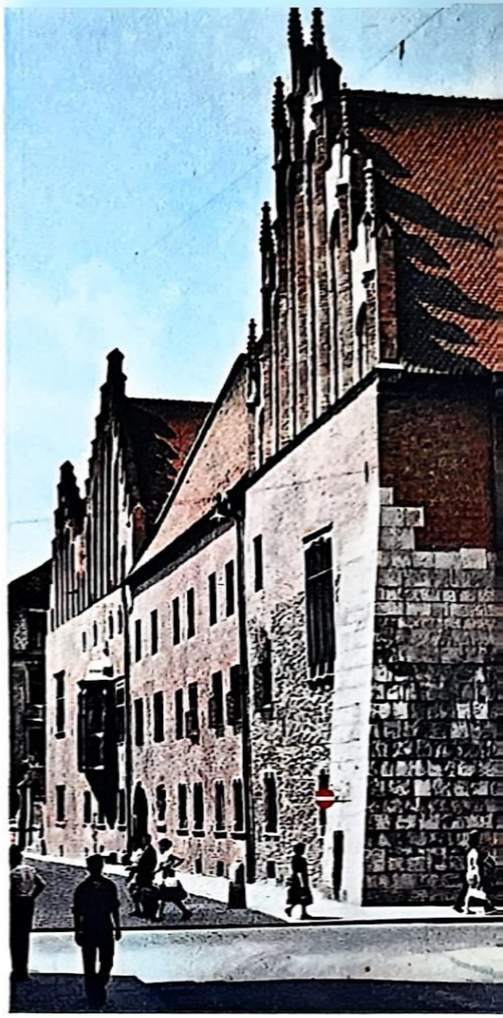
Collegium Maius: 15th-16th century,
Portico Courtyard
photo: W. Gumuła

visitors and tourists. Now Cracow is one big building site: new colourful and bright housing districts spring up round the old mediaeval town. The figures representing Cracow's development after World War II are really impressive. From 259,000 inhabitants in 1939 the population has increased to over half-a-million now (i. e. 1. 6 per cent of all Poland's population). The town area from 48 sq. kms. has grown to 240 sq. kms.

On the suburban wastelands Cracow's new district Nowa Huta suddenly came to life: the rate of its growth as well as the attainments of the huge Lenin Metallurgic Combine, have won it a world-wide acknowledgment. Since 1949, the first year when the construction works on Cracow's new district had started — there have been changes unrecorded ever before. The London journalist Sidney Taylor has said: "Never in my life have I seen anything like Nowa Huta". To-day one can hardly imagine Cracow without that important suburb, so full of life and energy, whose population now exceeds 100 thousand.

The Combine's highest output capacity amounts to 8 to 9 million tons steel, whereas in 1938 all-Poland production was only ca. 1.5 million tons. How expressive are those dry statistical figures! The Combine at Nowa Huta has put Polish metallurgy in the first ranks of national economy; Polish steel has made its way to numerous foreign markets, and Nowa Huta is now famous. More than forty countries import now steel from Nowa Huta.

The "Ludowy" (People's) Theatre of Nowa Huta is noted throughout Europe for its ambitious and apt work in intro-



Collegium Maius, Façade in Jagiellońska St.
photo: D. Zawadzki

Collegium Maius, Fragment of the Courtyard
photo: D. Zawadzki

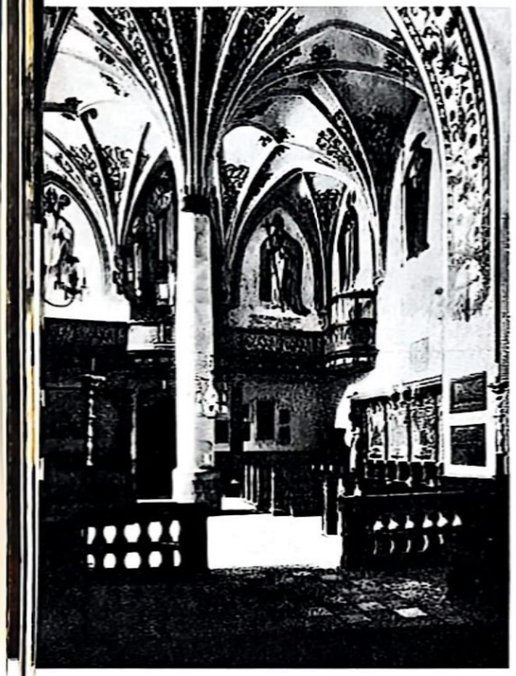
ducing up-to-date trends upon the stage, for its educational influence upon the new audience in that first truly socialist town in Poland. The district has fine cinemas, a smart International Book and Press Club, and an exhibition hall belonging to the Association of Fine-Arts. The streets are crowded and animated, new housing blocks are springing up one after another. It will be worth your while to visit that youngest district of old Cracow, to take a glimpse of its life and activities, of its youthful charm. Now a visit to Nowa Huta forms part of every important governmental visit, from socialist and capitalist countries alike.

But Nowa Huta is by no means the only (though it is obviously the most important) plant which has brought about those radical changes into the economic and social structure of our city. Cracow has a long list of other factories and plants, their overall output amounting to 4 per cent of the national production. In the post-war years there has been a pronounced progress in the metallurgical, chemical, heavy-engineering, and food branches of industry. The old factories have been enlarged and modernized, and many new ones have been added to them.

During the twenty years of People's Poland hundreds of apartment blocks and office buildings have been constructed in Cracow. Moreover, a complex of children's clinics under the management of the Medical Academy is being built at the district Prokocim (gift of American Research Hospital in Poland Inc., New York). This will be a real medical town for five thousand inhabitants (patients, personnel, and medical students).

Collegium Iuridicum (15-17th century): Façade overlooking Grodzka St.
photo: E. Hartwig

Holy Cross Church: a Fragment of the Renaissance Interior
photo: S. Kolowca

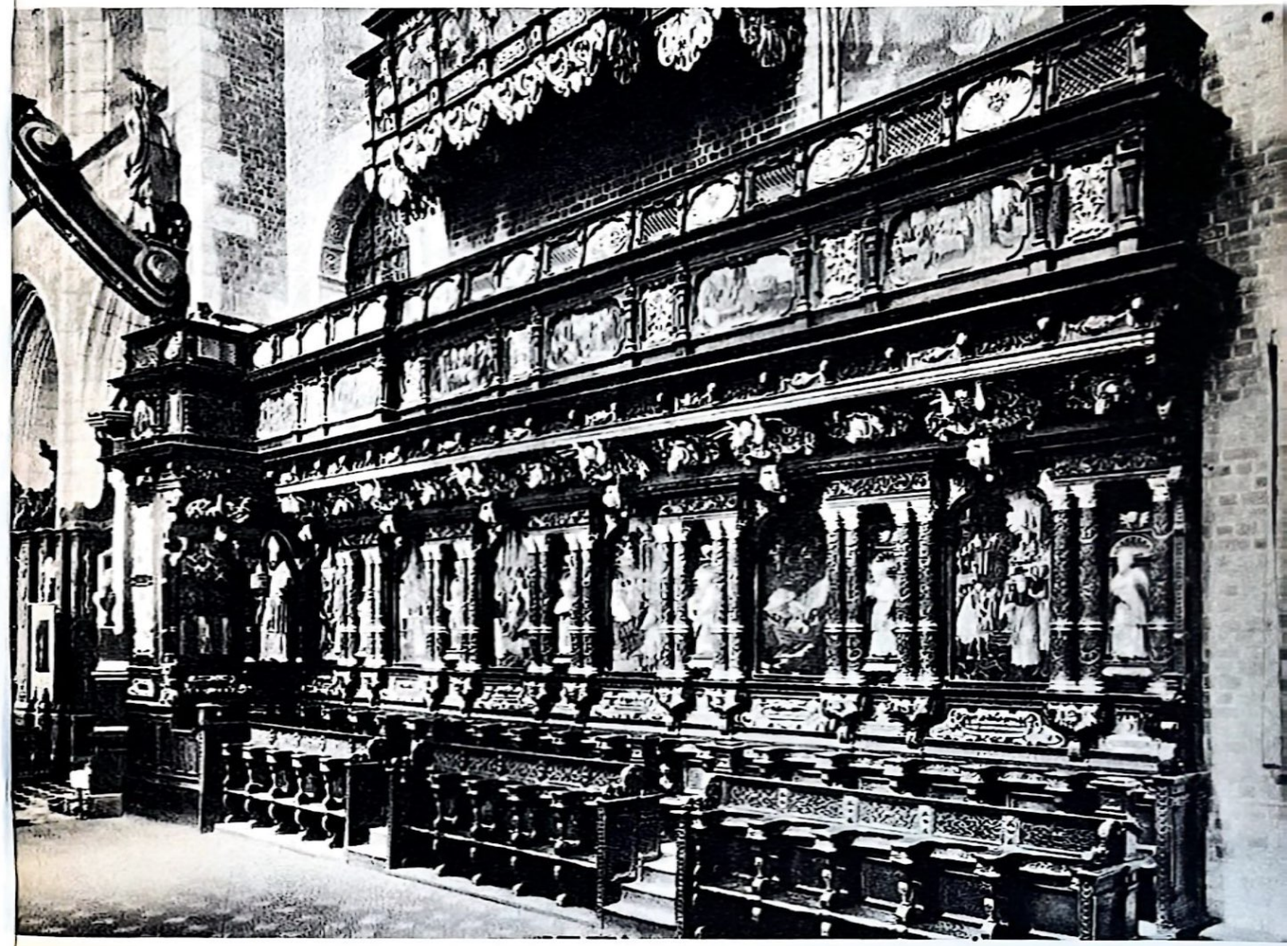


In 1965 the "Cracovia" hotel, that most modern of all Polish hotels, offering accomodation for nearly 700 persons, was opened to visitors.

A separate chapter in the town's post-war activities relates to education, research and culture, where an intensive development unrecorded in Cracow's chronicles has been in constant progress.

Of the seventy-five universities and colleges in Poland, Cracow has as many as eleven (the Jagellonian University among them). In the academic year 1962—63 about 26,500 students were attending the various universities and colleges of Cracow. Of these, six were founded atfer the war: Cracow Technical University, the Medical Academy, the High School of Economics, the Agricultural College, the Theatrical School, and the High School of Physical Education.

Since 1957 Cracow has had the only Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a research centre for all its members resident upon the territory of South Poland, developing a lively activity, in research proper as well as in its popularization. The Branch publishes studies and papers pertaining to different scopes of scientific interest, supervises several research institutes in the town, organizes closed and open scientific sessions. Cracow has several scientific institutes of national importance (e. g. the Nuclear Research Institute), research societies and regional social-cultural associations. The Cracow archives and large scientific libraries (the Jagiellonian Library and the Czartoryski Library, the Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, etc.) have gathered collections of universal renown, and men of science both from this country and from abroad



Corpus Christi Church: the Stalls (1629)
photo: S. Kolowca

St. Ann's Church: Late-Baroque Interior
photo arch.

have found here excellent and valuable material for research and scientific work.

The Cracow art and literary centres are equally of national importance. The Polish Plastic-Artists' Association lists over 1000 members. About one hundred and forty art exhibitions are organized every year. A special Bureau of Art Exhibitions has been founded. The group of literary men lists about one hundred and thirty members, and their work is equally eminent.

The theatre of Cracow, true to its remarkable historic traditions, has reached great heights during the post-war period. Under the Austrian partition rule it was a centre radiating patriotic feeling, having educated and staged some of the greatest among the Polish actors and actresses. While in 1939 Cracow had but one permanent stage, now it has nine (a musical stage among them).

Also the Karol Szymanowski Philharmonic of Cracow, founded in 1945, has reached eminent success. It, too, has participated in music festivals abroad (Italy, Yugoslavia), has given concerts in Belgium and Czechoslovakia, has won prizes and acknowledgment.

In a town so famous for its art and monuments of architecture of world-wide renown, the greatest attention is paid to the conservation of monuments and museology. Whereas in 1939 Cracow had five museums, now their number has reached nine. In 1963 the overall number of visitors amounted to one million and a half.

The town authorities devote much of their time and funds to preserve and restore the monuments of the past. Owing to

the memorable manoeuvre of the Soviet Army in 1945 all those splendid relics of the past have escaped destruction. Today the collection of Cracow is the richest in Poland, after those in Warsaw and some other Polish towns had been devastated by war. Nevertheless here, too, time had brought some damages, and so this rich collection needs special care. In the post-war years the municipal authorities have undertaken and carried out a number of works of the utmost importance. Thus e. g. the Cloth-Hall was thoroughly restored, houses in the Central Market-Place Rynek Główny in Polish) were repainted, the mediaeval murals inside the churches carefully preserved and the picturesque remnants of castellated walls restored, the handsome stone portals reconstructed, the mediaeval glass-panes preserved; the old synagogue in the Kazimierz district (15th—16th cent.) which the Nazi had

St. Norbert's Order Convent upon the Salvator Hill
photo: T. Chrzanowski

Old Synagogue in the Kazimierz District: Interior
photo: H. Hermanowicz

ruined was reconstructed; finally, Collegium Maius was subjected to general repairs, regaining its original appearance.

After World War II a series of important archaeological excavations was undertaken which has led to discoveries of the utmost significance. Thus they permitted, e. g., to establish that long before Cracow was located on the "Magdeburg law" in 1257 it had been an animated and well-formed town organism: another proof and argument against the biased assertions of the Nazi historians who considered Cracow a town of German origin.

The municipal authorities, desirous to promote the progress of culture, every year award prizes for its popularization. To bring another contemporary accent into the throbbing life of the town, so mediaeval and yet so modern, Cracow organizes an annual international short-film festival, and — commencing from 1966 — an International Biennale of Graphic Art.

This is the town which welcomes the thousands of guests coming to visit it from all over Poland and from abroad: Cracow — the centre of big industry and of Polish culture, science and art, a magnificent live museum of the past, and with excellent perspectives for future progress.

CRACOW ART TREASURES

Once it has been said that "Cracow's fame was due to the antiquity of its monuments". Now, after the Second World War had devastated and ruined dozens of handsome historical towns all over Europe, these words ring particularly true. In fact, Cracow, saved by a stroke of luck from the gale brought by the last war, and despite all its previous misfortunes, has been able to maintain its place as the principal

Kanonicza St., Renaissance Houses
photo: D. Zawadzki

Silver Cock of the Shooting Confraternity (16th century). Town-of-Cracow History Museum
photo: D. Zawadzki

Polish centre radiating a live historic tradition, a town with an unusually rich and old collection of art, archival records and libraries. Moreover, along with the great historical heritage Cracow has preserved many characteristic customs, rites and legends, such as the spectacular show called the "Lajkonik" or "The Wooden Horse", celebrated every year on the octave of Corpus Christi day, or the "Flower Wreaths" flown ablaze along the Vistula towards the end of June.

The town, enclosed within the Plantation gardens, a ring of greenery which had superseded the old fortifications surrounding the old city — is one of the now rare spots in Europe where you can trace the passing of successive centuries, their work harmoniously blended into one architectonic whole.

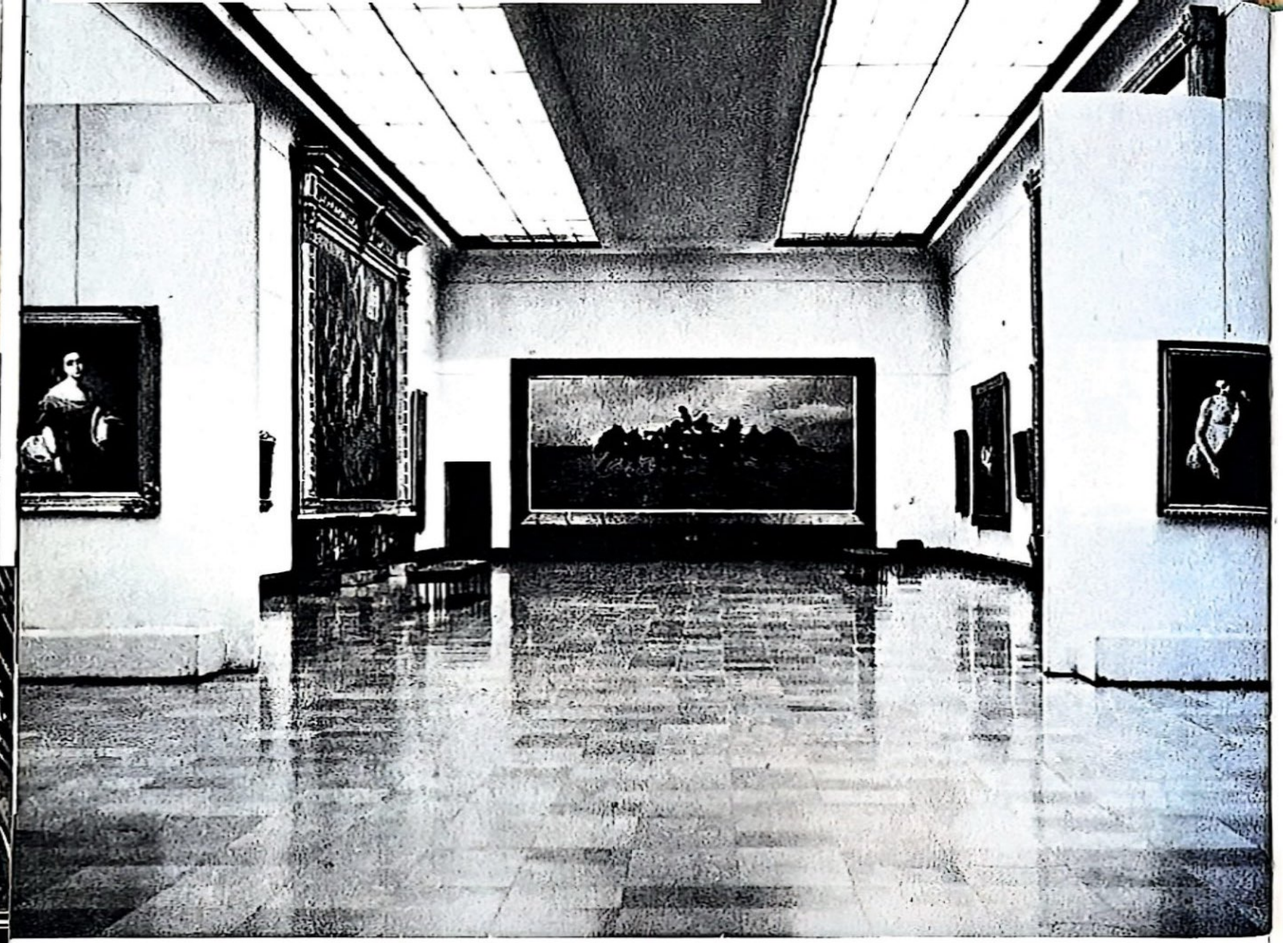
This historical city owes its specific character mainly to its architecture, its charming narrow streets, its magnificent churches and secular edifices. Cracow, "the town where stones live" enchants the tourist by the fine Gothic style of its castellated walls and monuments, by the beauty of its churches crowned with slim spires or with finely patinated Baroque cupolas. In the town's charming quiet lanes numerous churches and monasteries are dreamily dozing; almost at every step you will see Gothic or Renaissance niches, exquisite attics and ornamental portals, many a modest façade hiding inside a lovely arcaded courtyard.

But for a consistent image of the town's art history we must look elsewhere. Besides the numerous art treasures dispersed in the historical sacral and secular buildings, there are the Museums and Art Galleries, and we must say a few words about the most important of them.

Renaissance courtyard at 21, Kanonicza St.
photo: T. Chrzanowski

The prevailing part of the exhibits is comprised within the several branches of the National Museum of Cracow, the overall number of exhibits exceeding 500,000. One of the most remarkable collections is at the Czartoryski Museum, a splendid gallery of European art (Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, A. van Dyck; numerous Italian, Flemish, French, German and other painters) as well as an interesting collection of various souvenirs of national importance whose origins reach back to the collecting zeal of the Czartoryski family. Next, there is the Szołayski collection in the Szczepański Square exhibiting Polish artisan art from the 14th—17th centuries; the Polish Picture Gallery from the 18th—19th centuries, situated on the upper floor of the Cloth-Hall, and the Polish 20th Century Art Gallery (National Museum central building at 1, 3-go Maja Rd.). It will be equally worth your while to visit the Jan Matejko Museum, organized in the house once belonging to that great painter, the author of majestic historical visions (at 41, Floriańska St.). Tourists from abroad are particularly invited to visit the Ethnographical Museum (at 1, Wolnica Sq., a building of historic interest) whose splendid collection of folk-lore art, still alive and active in some parts of the Cracow region, has but few equals in the world. Besides the rich University collection and the Wawel Art Collection (see above), mention should be made of the Lenin Museum in Cracow, collecting materials on Lenin's stay in Poland, the Town-of-Cracow Historical Museum (a remarkable collection of arms), and several museums of special character (like the Archeological Museum, or the Judaistic Museum now organized in the old synagogue).

The Astronomical Observatory (17th century) overlooking the Botanical Gardens
photo: E. Hartwig



Art Gallery at the Cloth-Hall: Interior
photo: D. Zawadzki

600 YEARS OF JAGELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

Six hundred years have elapsed in 1964 from the moment when the foundation of the first Polish University in Cracow consolidated its eminent position, conferring the proud name of Poland's cultural capital upon the town which was the place of royal coronations and burials.

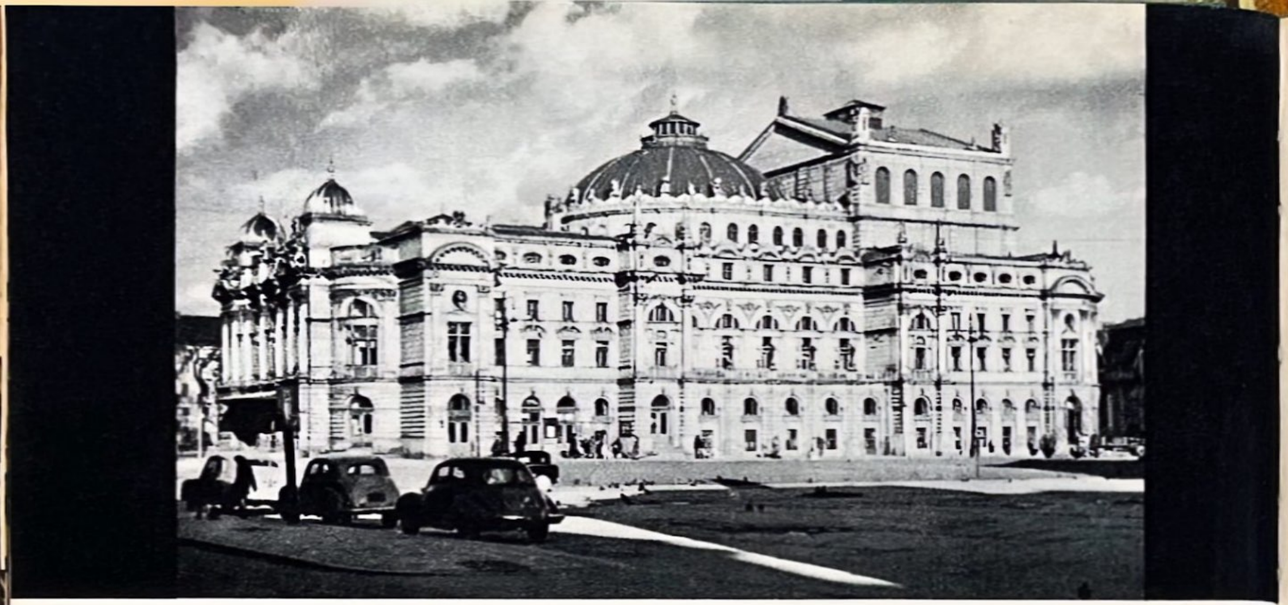
In mediaeval Europe the place attributed to universities, within the general frame of cultural organization, was considerably more important that it is now, even to the most renowned universities of to-day.

The Jagellonian University now celebrating its 600th anniversary was known in former times under the name of the Academy of Cracow. It was the second oldest (after the University of Prague) university upon European territory east of the Rhine, older than any of the German universities, the University of Vienna included.

The University was founded by the last King of the Piast dynasty, Casimir the Great. He was well aware of the new demands brought about by the rapid development of the country, and wisely decided that Poland, lying so far away from the contemporary centres of European learning (Paris, Bologna, Naples, Oxford) should take this bold step towards progress.

The authority competent to decree the foundation of a new university was then the Papal office. The long solicitations at Avignon, where Pope Urban V had his temporary residence, were eventually crowned with success, and on 12th May, 1364 the King was able to issue the foundation act esta-

Masearon at the Cloth-Hall attic
photo: H. Hermanowicz



blishing the first Studium Generale, i. e. University in Poland.

The University was organized according to Italian models — in several points, however, it bore the imprint of the personal conception of the King who intended to incorporate the University into State activities. The Pope's mistrustful attitude as responsible for the fact that the University originally had no Theology, a Faculty so important at the time. Thus from the very start the Academy of Cracow was noted for its secular and progressive character, with a pronounced predominance of the study of law, in the King's opinion possessed of the greatest importance for the make-up

The Słowacki Theatre (1891—1893)
photo: D. Zawadzki

Central Market Place. Houses dating from 16—17th century
photo: J. Domański

The "Lajkonik" Pageant
photo: D. Zawadzki

of a State. As a result the University founded by Casimir the Great was to comprise three faculties, Law, Medicine, and the Liberal Arts. The latter had one chair only, whereas Medicine had two, and Law as many as eight chairs, the most important of those being the chair of Roman law. To provide maintenance for the University the King granted it a rich income derived from the salines of Wieliczka.

Many further privileges were bestowed upon the University, and the municipal authorities acknowledged its privileged position by a document specially issued for that purpose. Unfortunately, the foundation of the University was shortly followed by the death of the King (1370). This was highly unfortunate for the further progress of the still unconsolidated Academy, the more so as the chaotic reign of Casimir's successor, King Louis of Hungary, failed to ensure proper care to the University.

Thus it was only in the nineties of the 14th century, mostly on the instigation of Queen Jadwiga, that new steps were undertaken to improve the situation and to provide better conditions for the development of the University. These efforts were crowned with full success: the restored University was solemnly reopened on 22nd—26th July, 1400 personally by King Wladislaw Jagello. The celebration took place at the corner house of St. Ann's and Jagiellońska Streets, a house bestowed on the University. The renewed University had now the Faculty of Theology as well, a fact which had a bearing on the intended rapid christianization of Lithuania, newly incorporated into the Polish State.

The re-establishment of the high status of the Cracow

Cracow Nativity Crib
photo: D. Zawadzki

National Museum. Lady with Ermine by Leonardo da Vinci
photo: M. Rostworowski

Academy was closely associated with the persons of Queen Jadwiga and her husband King Jagello. Their successors, too, took a lively interest in the University, and the ties uniting it to the Jagellon dynasty were strengthened, so that it came to represent the traditions of that great dynasty to assume — several centuries later — the name of Jagellonian University.

The basic national aims of the Studium Generale of Cracow were, however, not forgotten: during the first half of the 15th century it was able to give ample evidence of the great interest it took in public affairs. The two eminent University Rectors of the time, Stanisław of Skalmierz and Paweł Włodkowic, defended the Polish cause against the attacks of the Teutonic Order, before all Europe, represented Poland at General Councils, the most important international congresses of that time. Stanisław of Skalmierz in his study on the nature of just wars argued that only war waged for defense purposes could be said to be just, condemning aggression of any kind. Paweł Włodkowic showed quite a modern frame of mind defending the principle of State sovereignty, extending it even to the heathen — pointing out that they must not be converted to Christianity by force. This treatise was also directed against the aggressive activities of the Teutonic Order against Lithuania, and its success was a "moral Grunwald victory".

The ideas expounded by the Cracow school of the law of nations in the 15th century were far ahead of contemporary European learning. This excellent tradition in the 16th century found a continuator in the person of Andrzej Frycz-

Madonna from the Village Kruzlowa, about 1400. National Museum
photo: Z. Malinowski

Fragment of Cracow's panoramu
photo: H. Hermanowicz

Modrzewski, the greatest political writer and thinker in ancient Poland, a graduate of the Academy of Cracow.

At the Councils the representatives of the Academy advocated the idea of the Council's superiority over the Pope (Conciliarism) and published largely read treatises promoting the Reform of the Church. Motivated by the same spirit, the Polish deputation at the Constanza Council (1414), whose mouthpiece was the Rector Paweł Włodkowic, defended the cause of the Czech reformer Jan Hus, opposing, though unsuccessfully, the decision to condemn and burn him at the stake.

Although the material base for the existence of the Academy continued to be inadequate, the second half of the 15th century brought a further progress in sciences and scholarship at the University, the latter being now admittedly included into the first ranks of the European colleges of the time.

Since the beginning of the century the lecturing staff consisted mainly of Poles, mostly of middle-class origin. Now the Faculty of Artists or "Liberal Arts" gathered most of the professors who were lecturing on various subjects ranging from philosophy and philology to certain branches of the sciences. The scholars and students came from all over central Europe: this colourful, varied and undisciplined community was putting new life into the town. The radiation of science from the Academy went beyond the borders of the Polish State, further on the Czech and Moravian territories, to Austrian lands and to Germany, and reaching as far north as Scandinavia. However, it was with Hungary that the Jagellonian University had the closest ties: Hungarian

Monument of Józef Dietl (1804—1878), the Jagiellonian University Rector and Town Mayor. Sculpture by Xawery Dunikowski
photo: J. Domański

Jagellonian University Oldest Coat of Arms (at Collegium Minus), 15th century
photo arch.

students for over a century had appeared on the lists of Cracow undergraduates. How international was the composition of the bulk of University students can be best testified to by statistical data: during the second half of the 15th cent., the number of foreign students amounted to about 45% of the overall number.

The great renown of the Cracow University was consolidated — after the successes won by lawyers and theologians — by outstanding attainments in science. The founders of the Cracow school of mathematics and astronomy, whose excellent traditions have been maintained till the present day, were the professors Marcin Król of Żurawica, Jan of Głogów, Wojciech of Brudzewo, and others. But the tradition reached still farther back, to the 13th century, to Erazm Ciołek known under the name of Vitello, mathematician and physicist of European fame, and the author of a classic in optics. — The professors of the Polish "Margherita Scientiarum", "the pearl of sciences", put into life the ambitious directives bequeathed by Casimir the Great: their renown reached out as far as the Spanish and English universities, while their disciples, above all the eminent mathematicians, lectured at foreign universities, the famous University of Bologna among them. The high standard of learning at the Cracow Academy found a spectacular confirmation in the fact that within the lofty walls of Collegium Maius in the years 1941—1945 studied Mikołaj Kopernik of Toruń (Copernicus), that most famous of all University graduates, the author of the crucial work, **De revolutionibus orbium caelestium**, concerned with the revolutions of celestial bodies, by which he was able to abolish

Foundation Act of the Cracow Academy, 1364
photo: S. Kolowca

Jagellonian University: the Rector's Insignia
photo: S. Kolowca

the mediaeval conception of the structure of the universe. A palpable relic of this glorious past of the Cracow study of astronomy is the unique collection of astronomical instruments, for the most part produced in the course of the 15th and 16th centuries, and among them numerous instruments bequeathed by the Last Will of Marcin of Bylica, another University graduate, the distinguished astronomer and astrologer.

The late 15th century brought the first breeze of humanism to University halls. Visiting scholars from Italy, Germany, Hungary — Callimachus, Celtes, Corvinus were the first to introduce new ideas, advising to discard the obsolete scholastic teaching system. Among the numerous humanists who visited Cracow and exerted their influence upon the town, one should record the English humanist Leonard Coxe, author of the Latin panegyric in honour of the Academy of Cracow, "De Laudibus celeberrimae Cracoviensis Academiae" (1518), and adherent of Erasmus of Rotterdam. His patron and protector was Bishop Krzycki, the elegant poet (Coxe stayed in Cracow for over two years). It must be admitted, however, that the ideas of humanism and the Renaissance were somewhat late in winning over the University and that their triumph did not last long: in fact it was to be followed shortly— in the second half of the century — by a strong current of Counter-Rerfomation. Early in the 16th century the list of the leading representatives of the new trends included also the Greek philologist Constantino Claretti de Cancellieri, as well as the most eminent of all, Maciej of Miechów known under the name of Miechowita, the author of a book which

was to gain European renown by the first description of East--European countries (Tractatus de duabus Sarmatiis, 1517).

The international renown of the University and the constant increase in the number of scholars, continued throughout the first half of the 16th century. Among the outstanding men who kept in close touch with the University we must record the names of the astrologer John Dee and the magician Edward Kelly of Worcester. John Dee, mystic and cabalist as well as fervent admirer of ancient culture, upon visiting the University Library, bestowed upon it a valuable gift of a 15th century Greek manuscript, comprising among other items also the translation of the well-known work by Boetius, De consolatione philosophiae.

The professors of the Cracow Academy continued to exert a strong influence upon the general development of the town and the life at the splendid Royal Court. But the town, newly liberated from mediaeval ascetism, felt even deeper the presence of the merry international crowd of the young gaudily-dressed scholars studying at the Academy. Their violent and uncontrolled tempers gave vent to riots, drunken brawls and harsh disputes springing up between the members of different nationalities, which caused a lot of trouble both to the Academy authorities and to those responsible for maintaining order in the town. These apparently quite unimportant events were sometimes very detrimental to the Academy. Thus e. g. when the servants of the influential Canon Czarnkowski had in 1549 a brawl with the scholars, which ended in bloodshed, it provoked the spectacular "exodus" from Cracow: some of the scholars embittered by the unfair treatment of

The Rector's Sceptre (15th century), Upper Portion: Gift Bestowed by Frederic the Jagellon
photo W. Gumula

Arabic Astrolabe (11th century), once belonging to the Polish Astronomer Marcin Bylica
photo: W. Gumula

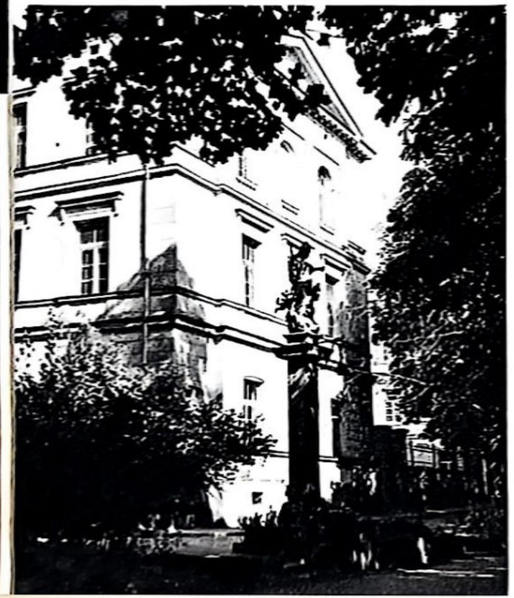
their fellows, ostensibly left the town. And even though the "exodus" was far from being universal, the second half of the 16th century brought a slow decrease in the status of the University as an international centre of learning. There were several reasons for it. It must be remembered that Reformation and Humanism promoted the idea of founding new universities in every country, that national States were being formed and that the ensuing interest taken in national languages led to changes in the previously cosmopolitical atmosphere of mediaeval universities. These general reasons were coupled with some others of a more particular character, resulting from the specific situation in the Cracow Academy. In fact, the brief period of outstanding success reached by the humanists was followed by a marked come-down. The progress of Reformation having been suddenly checked in Poland, the Academy turned narrowly orthodox and soon lost its international, though not its national, importance. How truly important was the University of Cracow to the 16th-century Polish culture is best shown by the list of its most outstanding disciples, a list containing nearly every great name of the fathers of national Renaissance literature in Poland.

At the turn of the next (17th) century the University of Cracow still kept some traces of its past glory, but the afterglow of humanism could not last long and thus gradually as the years went on, the Academy of Cracow lost much of its splendour. Its decline was further precipitated by the disturbances brought by the frequent wars, particularly by the war with Sweden. This left the University impoverished and devastated, and this poor condition did not improve till the end of the

The "Jagellonian" Earth Globe (ca. 1510), showing the newly discovered land, America
photo: W. Gumula

The University Quartier: General View
photo: D. Zawadzki

Olszewski College (17th century), overlooking the Planty Gardens
photo: J. Domański



17th century. Among the many reasons for this unfavourable situation most significant was the political and social condition of the country, governed by aristocratic oligarchy, as well as the impaired status of towns and the various military defeats and economic failures.

Counter-Reformation tendencies triumphed all over Poland, and this as a result narrowed the scope of the University converting it into a strictly orthodox school strongly influenced by the clergy. The great tradition of the University in science faded considerably — now the principal place was attributed to theology, supported by mediaeval Aristoteleanism in philosophy. Even men as outstanding as Sebastian Petrycy, the philosopher and economist, or the eminent jurist Mikołaj Zalaszowski were unable to bring any essential change or improvement.

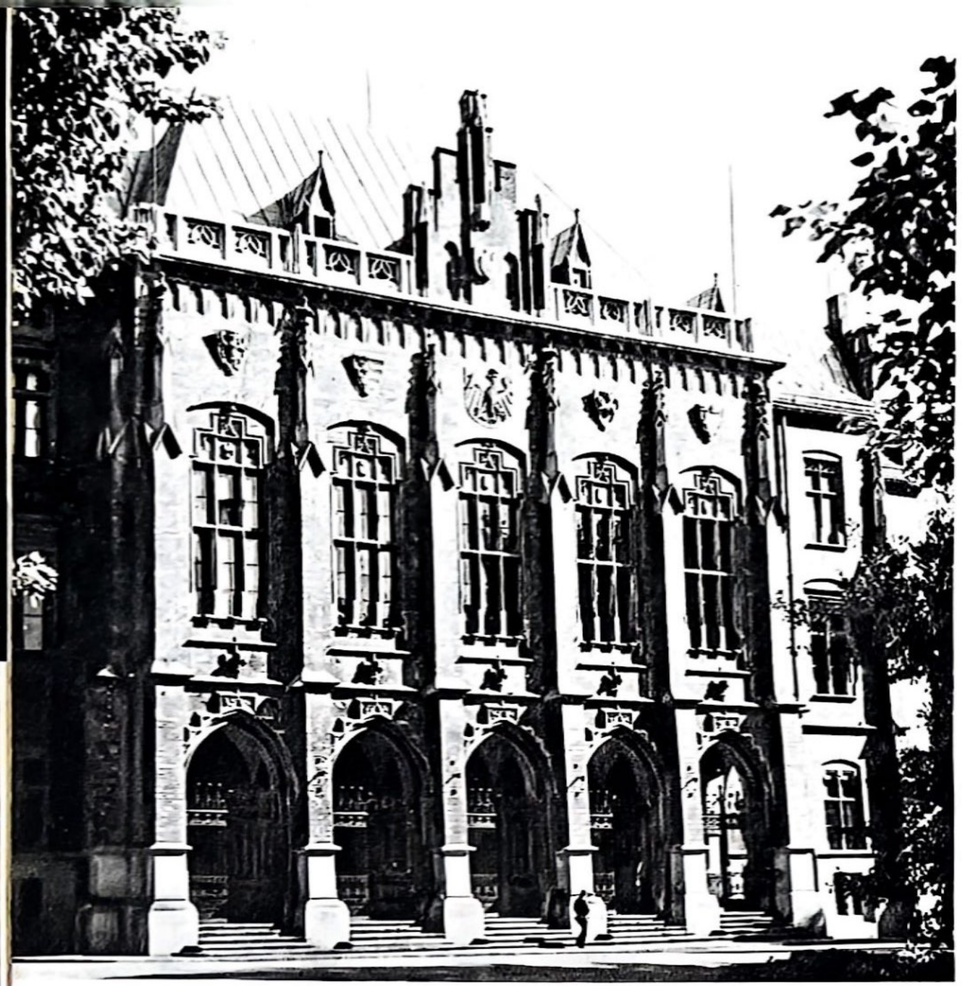
The only branch of science to maintain the former good tradition was astronomy. Still during the 16th century the Coperanican theory was expounded at the Academy which was the first among universities to acknowledge the great discovery of its illustrious disciple. The Copernican tradition was maintained until the middle of the 17th century, mostly owing to Jan Brożek, the eminent mathematician and progressive wirter of peasant origin who was made Rector and was admittedly the most enlightened professor of his time. It was at his instigation that the action of collecting the Copernican souvenirs was initiated. His contemporary Stanisław Pudłowski, another renowned mathematician, was in close touch with the greatest mathematician and astronomer of the time, Galileo de Galilei.

The first half of the 16th century under the reign of the Saxe dynasty brought no visible improvement. However, the Age of Enlightenment was flourishing, and some efforts were actually undertaken to introduce fresh ideas into the stagnant waters of the University. These were mainly due to the enlightened Biskop Załuski who took a deep interest in scientific progress in general, and in the Academy in particular. It was he who in 1748 founded the chair of the Law of nations and nature at the Academy, and promoted the idea of inviting Christian Wolff, the outstanding German philosopher, to hold a course of lectures at the Academy (however, the project was not realized).

The Age of Enlightenment in Poland was a period of strife for political and social reform, necessary to safeguard national independence. Within this struggle the problem of education and science, after the long years of war and cultural decline under the reign of the Saxe dynasty, acquired a new poignant significance.

By no mere coincidence the first Ministry for Education was founded in Poland: the Commission of National Education which, endowed with goods obtained from the cassation of the Jesuit order, engaged in the struggle for the revival of research and cultural and scientific progress in Poland. Particularly urgent was the problem of educating an adequate and efficient teaching staff. This was why the Commission of National Education, remembering the past merits of the Academy in that field, took a lively interest in its development. Impoverished and decayed, with an obsolete curriculum and a lecturing staff with stiff retrograde views, the Academy was

Hugo Kołłątaj's College (18th cent.)
photo: J. Domański



Collegium Novum, main University buildings: the Façade (1883—1887)
photo: J. Domański

urgently in need of thorough revival. This ambitious task was undertaken by the leading politician and thinker of the progressive group, Hugo Kołłątaj: the prominent part he had taken in the Kościuszko Insurrection was to win him later the name of the Polish Robespierre. The years 1777—1780 brought radical changes into the organization, the composition of the staff and the curriculum of the University, initiating a short but fruitful chapter for the Jagellonian University. The main goals of the Reform were as follows: general secularization of the University, modernization of teaching methods and of scientific research. It was proposed further to focus the interest of the Academy upon the question of educating a good staff in the teaching, medical, and legal professions, to entrust it with the control over the general teaching progress in the country, and generally to subordinate work at the University to the leading idea of a "civic education", to make the University a school of patriotic feeling and progress. The dotation bestowed upon the Academy which then was called the Central Crown School, permitted to endow it properly, according to the standard set by the best European universities of the time. Thus in 1782 the Botanical Gardens were opened, in 1787 the classicist building of the Astronomical Observatory was erected; in 1783 the chemical laboratory was founded, in 1784 the study of physics, etc. The rejuvenated, well-informed of the new scientific attainments, professorial staff set to work. Kołłątaj's conception was to promote the development of legal sciences amongst the other social sciences. The great scholar of the time was the astronomer and mathematician Jan Sniadecki, one of the most distinguished personalities

Collegium Novum: Fragment of the Staircase
photo: D. Zawadzki

Nowodworski College, (17th century)
photo: J. Domański

Copernicus, painted by Jan Matejko. Jagellonian University
photo: W. Gumula

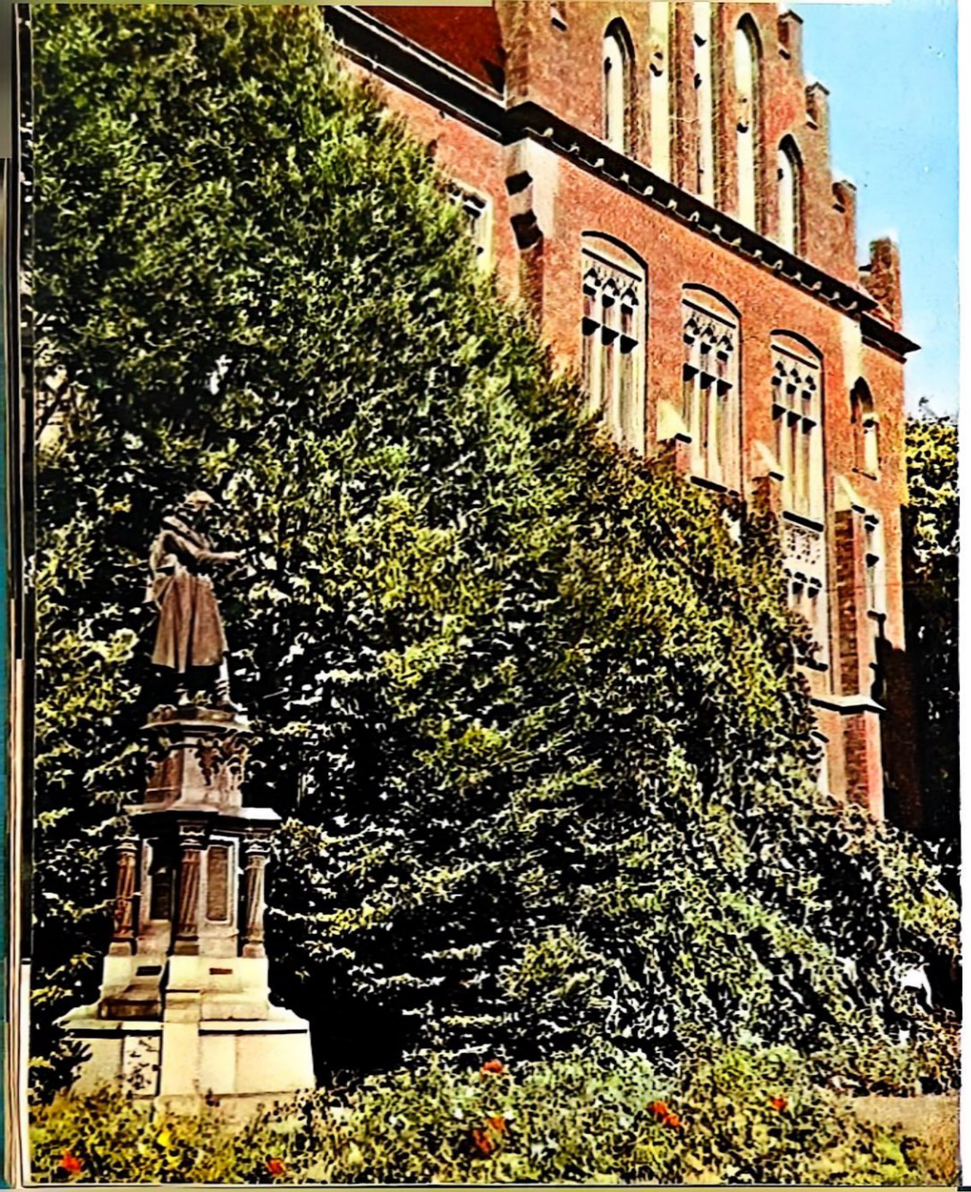
in the whole history of the University, who was to defend it fervently during the partitions of Poland.

The second partition and the varying fortunes of the Kościuszko Insurrection in which many University students as well as some of the professors took part, followed by the third, final partition of Poland, put Cracow under the Austrian rule. The latter tended to germanize the University, whose standard again gradually began to decline. From the time of the downfall of the Kościuszko Insurrection up to the "Gallician period of autonomy" the University shared the hard fate and numerous defeats of the nation. This was a really difficult time: often hardly able to continue its existence, the University still managed to revive whenever the atmosphere grew more favourable, and despite all difficulties it had to face, its ideological and scientific influence upon the evolution of national culture was of tremendous scope.

After a brief return to Kołłątaj's traditions under the Warsaw Duchy, the Jagellonian University went through a new phase (1815—46): it became the only college of the small formation, the Free Town of Cracow, created at the Vienna Congress in 1815.

The extensive autonomic power granted to the University authorities and the great influence exerted by it on the political aspect of the town put it soon within the orbit of a violent conflict between the political aggressors, keenly surveying the activities of the University, on the one hand, and, on the other, the liberational and independence trends of the 1815—46 period, which found shelter and support at the University. This unequal conflict ended with the defeat of the University,

Hugo Kołłątaj (1750—1812) Reformer of Jagellonian University: oil portrait
photo: W. Gumula



Copernicus' Monument and Witkowski College.
photo: J. Domański

but its students and graduates continued to take active part in each successive national upheaval — from the insurrection of 1831 to that of 1863. In the Cracow revolution of 1846 whose defeat put an end to the existence of the Free Town of Cracow, the participation of both professors and students was quite outstanding. Despite the obviously unfavourable conditions this period brought several serious attainments in science. Especially remarkable was the work undertaken to safeguard national tradition: historical and bibliographical research was carried out on a large scale, numerous sources and studies on the history of Polish literature were published, etc.

The ephemereal hopes evoked by the Spring of Nations were left unfulfilled and Austria once more turned absolutarian directing its germanizing tendencies against the leading professors of the University of Cracow. It was not until 1861 that this policy was discarded. The 1863 "January" insurrection found support among the University students who in a large group took part in the bloodshedding expedition to Miechów.

The following, 1867—1918 period was quite different for the Polish territories under the Austrian rule from what it was for the two other partition areas, the Prussian and the Russian. This was the age of "autonomy", a result of the transformation of Austria into the constitutional Austro-Hungarian empire. Jagellonian Universtiy was now able to redeem its Polish character, regaining by the same its central position in Polish science. Henceforth the part played by the University in Polish culture, keenly persecuted by the Prussian Kultur-

Collegium Novum: in the Hall
photo: J. Domański

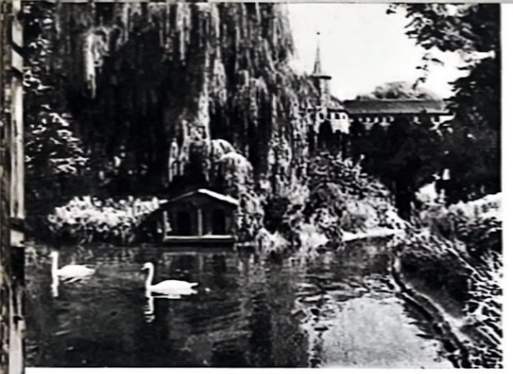
Collegium Maius: the Hall
photo: W. Gumula

kampf on the one hand, and by Tsarist repression on the other, became really tremendous. It must be admitted that the freedom of language and culture, brought during that period to the University, was well made use of. Evidently, the general situation, position and status of the University was determined by the specific social-political circumstances in Galicia, governed as it was by the conservative landed gentry, whose general attitude towards the Austrian occupiers was rather conciliatory. But notwithstanding the unchallenged predominance of the conservative and clerical spheres, espe-

On the Jubilee Day the Jagellonian University is awarded the highest state distinction
photo: O. Link

Inauguration of the Jagellonian University Jubilee Year (1st October, 1963)
photo: O. Link

University representatives from all over the World during Jubilee celebrations
photo: R. Wesolowski



The Plantation Gardens
photo: J. Domański

cially in the humanities, the rapid progress in science and organizational work during the last quarter of the 19th century permitted to consolidate the good tradition of unhampered scientific research, and to disseminate and popularize liberal trends among the professorial staff. This general regaining of the scientific standard of the University, considerably impaired during the previous difficult period of Austrian rule (before 1870), now involved nearly every Faculty, but it were distinctly the letters and legal sciences which, at least initially, were the most active and progressive. The struggle to obtain full rights for the national language prompted the development of the linguistic school, and of Slavonic studies in particular. In the latter field the most outstanding representatives were Baudouin de Courtenay, Jan Łoś and Jan

Academy of Mining and Metallurgy: Façade (1939)
photo: T. Chrzanowski

Jagellonian Library (1939)
photo: D. Zawadzki

Michal Rozwadowski whose work was continued until recent times by Kazimierz Nitsch. Extensive research was also undertaken on the history of Polish literature (Stanisław Tarnowski, Ignacy Chrzanowski) as well as on classical literature (Kazimierz Morawski, Leon Sternbach and others). But the social interest of the Polish nation, deprived as it was of an independent State organism, was focused mainly, upon the study of national history. Here towards the end of the century the "Historical School of Cracow" came to full life: its most prominent representatives, Szujski and Bobrzyński (the latter a historian of law) presented their synthesis of national history: their biased conservative-clerical approach to the problem putting its heavy stamp upon the attitude adopted by the general reading public.

National Museum: Main Building
photo: J. Domański

Agricultural College: Main Building (1964)
photo: J. Domański

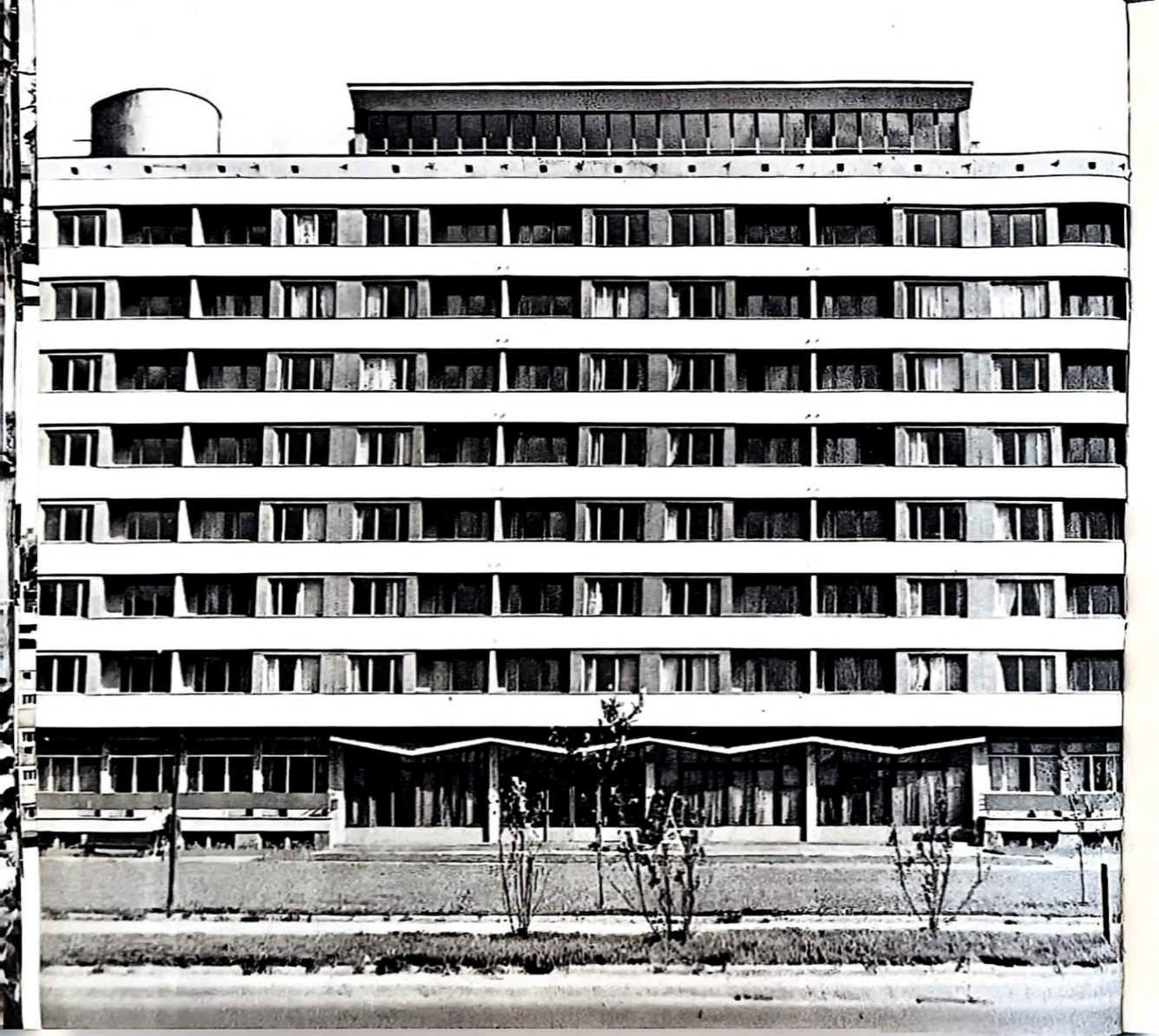
Lenin Museum
photo: W. Tomaszkiewicz

The numerous scientific activities which were carried on at the Faculty of Philosophy and History, found a match in the Law Faculty. The latter had many distinguished representatives, concerned not only with historico-legal research (Bobrzyński, Piekosiński, Ulanowski) or with Roman law (Zoll Sen., Stanisław Wróblewski) but with other branches of legal sciences as well. The Medical Faculty, too, revived its excellent traditions of the Renaissance epoch. The list of professors lecturing at the Medical Faculty of Cracow, whose theoretical works and clinical results were known all over Europe in the late 19th century, was very long. Let us mention at this place the renowned physiologist Napoleon Cybulski, and the names of Ludwik Teichmann, Leon Marchlewski and Kazimierz Kostanecki.

New Houses in Smoleńsk St.
photo: H. Hermanowicz

Residential District at Nowa Huta
photo: D. Zawadzki

Town Centre at Nowa Huta
photo: D. Zawadzki



Jagellonian University Girl-Students' Hostel in Piastowska St. (1964)
photo: J. Domański

The study of mathematics and astronomy in Cracow was equally continuing the illustrious Copernican tradition. Most distinguished in this field were Stanisław Zaremba, Jan Wilkosz and Tadeusz Banachiewicz, the perennial director of the Univesitarian Astronomical Observatory, one of the most eminent astronomers of our century. The situation was somewhat worse in experimental sciences, which was partly due to their inadequate equipment and absence of proper laboratory conditions. Nevertheless it was just here, in the Collegium Physicum built still in Kołłątaj's times that an important pioneer experiment was successfully carried out: Zygmunt Wróblewski and Karol Olszewski were the first to condense air and its components statically (1883—1890). Another distinguished name was that of the physicist Marian Smoluchowski, the leading representative of the kinetic-molecular theory.

Scientific progress was coupled with organizational developments. New departments and sections were founded: the Department of Agriculture, the Study of Pharmacy, the Study of Pedagogy, the Study of Physical Training, etc.

In 1864 the Austrian authorities had not allowed to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the University. The 1900 celebration of the 500th anniversary of the restoration of the University by King Wladislaw Jagello gathered representatives from all three partitions as well as deputies from all outstanding European Universities, which once more showed the great significance of the Cracow University for the Polish nation and at the same time its important place among other European colleges.

Students' Towndistrict in construction
photo: J. Domański

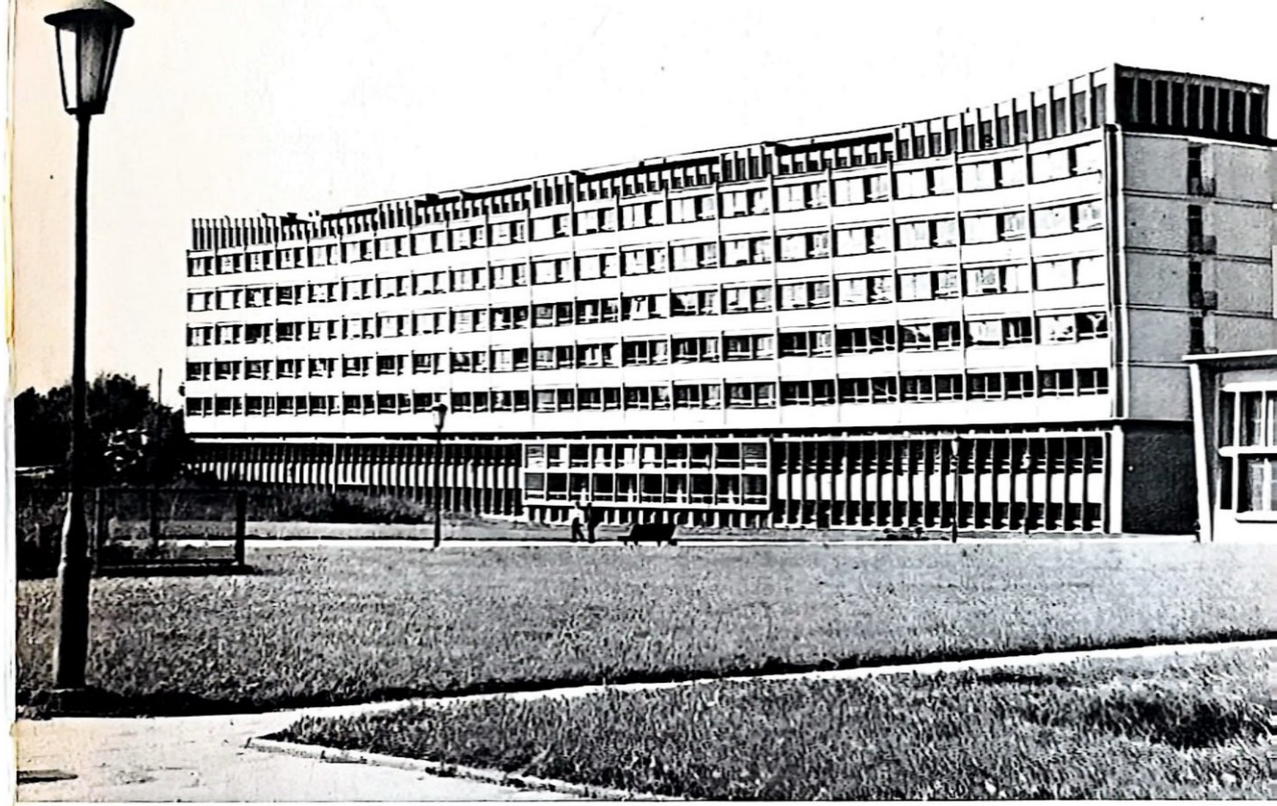
Institute of Zoology and Geology, Jagellonian University (1964)
photo: J. Domański

This University of all-Polish importance, which for so long a time had been a real stronghold of conservatism, at the turn of the 20th century began to imbue increasingly ideas of socialism, whose influence was strongly felt among the undergraduates, and sometimes extended even to members of the professorial staff. Particularly effective were the associated people's and socialistic trends, and the revolution of 1905—1907.

The independence regained in 1918 opened new vistas for the University, prompting its scientific and organizational progress. However, various political and economic disturbances during the twenty years of inter-war independence restricted the sphere of its activity. Its professors were mostly liberals opposed to attempts at autocratic government.

The Nazi invasion against Poland initiated the most painful period in the existance of the University. The occupier, set upon a systematic action of exterminating Polish culture and science, struck his first blow at the University on November 6th, 1939: 183 professors, associate professors and assistants were insidiously arrested and deported to concentration camps, mainly to Sachsenhausen. Among those who were never to return, thirty distinguished professors fell victims to the terror. The University estate and collections were partly plundered, partly destroyed. Those of the lecturing staff who were left free set to work underground: during the years 1942—1945 the University organized lectures in conspiracy — so as to be able, upon Cracow's liberation, to proceed directly to the tremendous task of restoration.

The restoration and further developments in the reconstruction of the country under new political conditions has set new ambitious tasks before all Polish universities. To realize them it was necessary to develop those already existing as well as to grant independence to some of their scientific and educational sections. Thus it was that out of the former University Departments two new colleges were formed



Institute of Physics and Mathematics in Reymont St. (1964)
photo: J. Domański

Administration Edifice in 18-Stycznia St.
photo: J. Domański

in Cracow after the war: the Medical Academy and the Agricultural College.

The Agricultural College which recently has celebrated the tenth anniversary of its independent existence, is among the leading Polish centres of agricultural research.

As to the Medical Academy, figures will best illustrate its constant development. Thus in the academic year 1962—63 the Academy staff listed three thousand, among them fifty-eight professors and associate professors. Of the nearly three thousand medical undergraduates 62 per cent were women.

In the course of post-war reorganization the number of chairs, scientific institutes and departments at the University has been fluctuating considerably. In the academic year 1964—65 Jagellonian University had a total of eighty-nine chairs grouped into five faculties (Law; Philology; Philosophy and History; Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry; and Biology and the Study of Earth), the number of the teaching staff reaching up to nearly seven hundred, and of the students to over seven thousand. To illustrate the tremendous social changes which took place in the structure of the University after the last war it will be enough to quote one significant statistical comparison: while before 1939 the average per cent of undergraduates of worker and peasant origin was only 18, in recent years it has grown up to nearly 40 per cent of the overall number of undergraduates.

The Jubilee of the oldest Polish school of higher education, festively celebrated in 1964, had been preceded with considerable preparation.

The basis for the realization of an outstanding number of ambitious plans was provided by a special Cabinet Act passed on 22nd May, 1959 for the Jubilee of the oldest Polish University. The Act opened large vistas for a detailed preparation of the Julbiee celebrations proper, and provided funds for an extensive schedule of Jubilee publications; moreover, it was the starting-point for an impressive schedule of Jubilee allocations for which the considerable sum of nearly 350 million zlotys had been provided for the years 1959 to 1964.

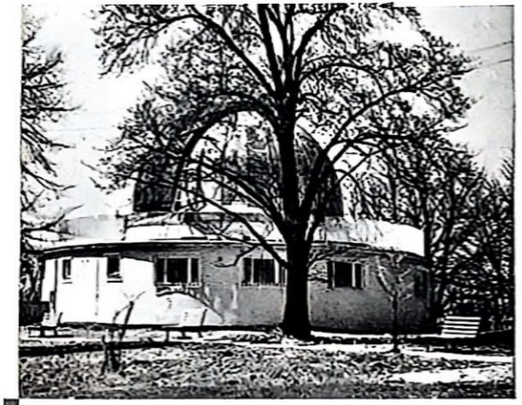
Thus the recent years brought to the three colleges celebrating the Jubilee this handsome and quite unique gift for future development, the first action to be undertaken on such a large scale since Kołłątaj's renowned reform whose beneficial effects had been felt by Jagellonian University till the very end of the nineteenth century.

This extensive scope of Jubilee allocations has put it upon the second — next to Nowa Huta — place for dynamic progress in the process of the general development of the town.

Besides these allocations, work was undertaken on a large scale to modernize and renew the existing possessions of the University, and to equip it with modern scientific apparatus and appliances. The main Jubilee investments for Jagellonian University and the Agricultural College have been grouped in the western part of Cracow around Adam Mickiewicz Avenue. Those are: the vast Institute of Physics and Mathematics of Jagellonian University located in Reymonta St., Collegium Biologicum in Krupnicza St., consisting of three extensive

The "Tourist's House" Hotel in Westerplatte St.
photo: D. Zawadzki

"Cracovia" Hotel: a Fragment (1965)
photo: J. Domański



The new Astronomical Observatory of the Jagellonian University (1964)
photo: I. Markiewicz

pavilions and providing a handsome accent to the University Quartier developing around Adam Mickiewicz Ave., and Collegium Paderevianum housing the Faculty of Philology departments, located at the corner of Mickiewicz Ave. and Krupnicza St., whose elevated part — ten storeys of 16,000 cu. meters cubic capacity has been already erected.

Of the further allocations for the University mention should be made of the modern Palm-House in the Jagellonian University Botanical Gardens as well as of the erection of the new Astronomical Observatory of the University located upon the hill "Skała" in the suburban Bielany district; further, considerable funds have been allocated for the erection of a separate small district for students — intended to commemorate the first twenty yeras of People's Poland, the first of which is the new Girl-Student's Hostel in Piastowska Street, for 820 students.

The principal allocation undertaken by the Agricultural College is its new main building with seven large storeys located equally in Adam Mickiewicz Ave. The enlargement of the Medical Academy for which a "medical town" is built in the Prokocim townsdistrict, has begun with the construction of the complex of children's clinics.

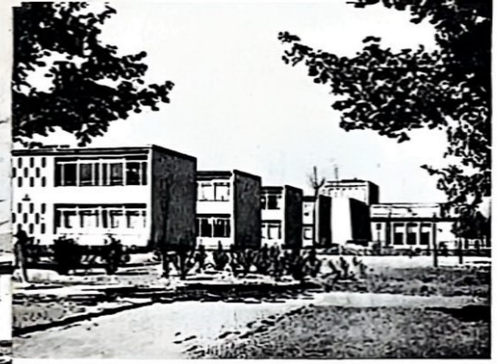
Jagellonian University is an institution whose scope goes beyond the dozens of its scientific institutes and professorial chairs, its periodical publications, the University Astronomical Observatory, renowned for the part it had played in astronomical research, and one of the oldest University Botanical Gardens in Europe. It comprises also an unusually magnificent collection kept at the Jagellonian Library (incunabula, a rich

collection of manuscripts, old drawings, etc., among them the famous Copernican manuscript, a great many illuminated MSS.), as well as at the University Archives and Museum. Of special interest are the various collections kept at the University Museum in Collegium Maius. Besides the collection of rare astronomical instruments of which the most remarkable specimen is the so-called "Golden Globe", and numerous relics of the past (among them a collection of University insignia, now the most valuable of their kind in Europe), the Museum exhibits a rich collection of Gothic art and of artistic handicraft. Another curious exhibit is the largest in Europe set of wood-engraving blocks, made at the University printing-office.

Finally, the University of to-day owes much of its life and animation to its students grouped in numerous clubs, associations, and amateur ensembes; every year, during the Iuvenalia Days their merry crowd turns the streets and lanes of old Cracow into an incomparable stage for a great, carefree masquearde.

The celebrations of the Jagellonian University Jubillee culminated in May, 1964, and were joined by the deputies of sixty-nine universities from all over the world. Scientific sessions, festive processions, social gatherings and events of artistic character combined to turn the Jubilee of the University, set against the background of the historical streets and interiors of Cracow, into a unique and unforgettable experience. During the Jubilee celebrations the University authorities conferred the honoris causa doctor's degree upon several dozens of representatives of science and culture from

Collegium Paderevianum (1964)
photo: J. Domański



One of the "Millenium" Schools at Nowa Huta
photo: D. Zawadzki

Art Exhibition Pavilion (1965)
hoto: J. Domański

different countries, among others upon Lord E. Douglas Adrian (United Kingdom), W. Bloom and L. Pauling (USA), the Nobel prize-winner Ivo Andrič (Yugoslavia), and P. Dudley White (USA).

CRACOW'S ENVIRONS

The immediate neighbourhood of Cracow as well as the region as a whole are among the most beautiful place in Poland. Near Cracow you will see wonderful landscapes and mediaeval castles — and, quite close at hand, the world-famous salt mine, the thousand-years' old Wieliczka. And, when you go a bit farther south you will reach the mountain region, the magnificent Tatra, the picturesque Pieniny, and several minor mountain ranges. The mountains of the Cracow region have since long attracted tourists from all over Europe.

WIELICZKA. At 14 kms. distance in the south-east direction of Cracow's centre lies the small town of Wieliczka, widely known for its unique salt mine, worked — in parts — till the present day. From Cracow you reach Wieliczka by electric train in 20 minutes.

The salt mine is now about one thousand years old. For ten centuries nature and human industry have moulded this unique spot, so much admired by tourists. The salt mine has been sung by poets and described by scholars, visited by kings, statesmen, politicians and artists. During the 15th century Wieliczka was visited by the German Emperor Sigismund, by Eric, King of Denmark, some time

Residential District at Krzesławice
photo: H. Hermanowicz

Lenin Combine at Nowa Huta: a Fragment
photo: O. Link

later by Copernicus, towards the end of the 18th century by Goethe, etc. etc.

A German man of science said that the salt-crystals of Wieliczka are one of nature's wonders. These extraordinary salt crystals are exhibited in the exquisite Crystal Grotto, discovered in 1860.

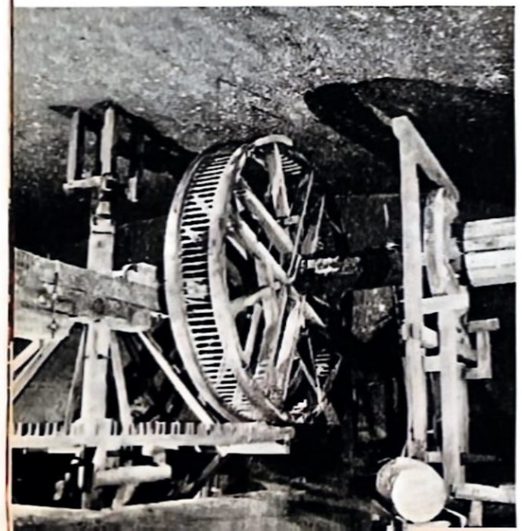
You will need about three hours to go down the tourist route in the mine, paying a visit to the Cracow Saline Museum on the way. The route covers about 3 kms. of the part dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, intersecting three levels, reaching down 135 m. below ground.

Of particular interest are: St. Anthony's Chapel dug out in salt in 1689 by the miner Antoni Kuczkowski, the huge hall "Pieskowa Skała", the wonderful St. Kinga's Chapel with a rich variety of sculptures, bas-reliefs and lustres, all dug out in salt, the "Michałowice" chamber with a fantastic wooden structure very much like a genuine Gothic construction. You will cross mysterious chambers with lakes and the "Warszawa" chamber with a snack-bar for tourists, where the miners' festivities are celebrated. In 1956 a tennis court was arranged there, probably the only court to be situated at nearly 130 m. below ground.

Moreover, the Wieliczka salines possess healing properties: they give excellent results in the treatment of children's whooping-cough and asthma. It is planned to establish there a health station to treat these diseases.

The history of the saline, its gradual development as well as the difficult work of the miners have been interestingly illustrated in the Cracow Saline Museum, organized by

Wieliczka. Salt Working Chamber, 17th cent.
photo: A. Długosz



Wieliczka. Polish Horse-Drive, 17th cent. Cracow Saline Museum
photo: H. Hermanowicz

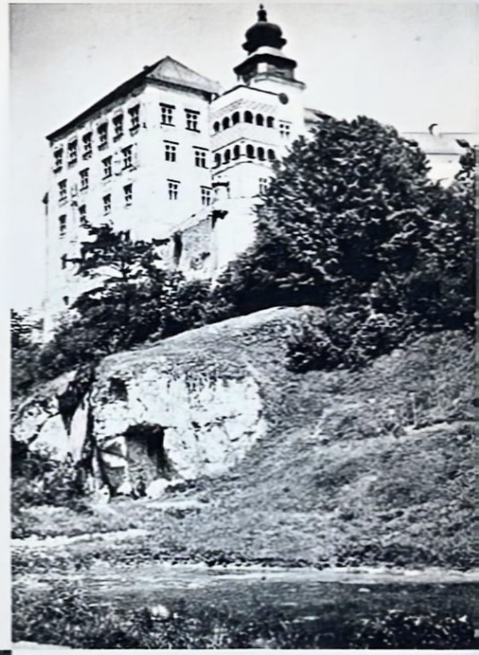
Alfons Długosz after the second world war. The Museum consists of three sections: geological deposits, old mining instruments and appliances, and a historical division. Among the many curious exhibits of special interest are the old mining instruments, some of them dating from the 16th century, preserved with skill and care till the present day. The historical division exhibits, among other curiosities, the original plans of the Wieliczka mines, designed by Martin German in the 17th century.

OJCÓW. This village lying at 24 kms. from Cracow is particularly noted for its picturesque charm which has won it the name of Polish Switzerland. Upon a relatively small area nature has lavishly sown: you will find here mysterious caves, oddly-shaped rocks, lovely green woods. The small river Prądnik winds its way right in the middle of the valley. In 1956 the Ojców National Park was created, permitting to safeguard properly the beauty of nature in one of Poland's most wonderful spots. Upon the Ojców territory you will find over a dozen caves, of which the largest are the Zbójecka (Robbers') Cave and King Łokietek's Cave, in each of them the overall corridor length amounting to ca. 240 meters.

From Cracow to Częstochowa runs the PATH OF EAGLE'S NESTS, a series of old castles, rich in historical tradition. Many centuries ago they were erected here to defend with their stone armour the capital of the country — Cracow. King Casimir the Great was particularly concerned with strengthening the defense system in these parts; most of them were built under his reign. Unfortunately, not much

has been left of these once proud strongholds — mere ruins staring out of the empty sockets of their decayed windows and gates. Devastated by wars, they bear sad witness to their glorious past. Most noteworthy among these are perhaps the ruins of the once powerful Ogrodzieniec castle (16th century). Ojców, too, was one of those "Nests"; once a stronghold, and later a castle had been constructed where now only a few fragments are left: the remants of walls and a tower. Above the entrance gate the Touristic Regional Museum has been housed.

PIESKOWA SKAŁA. 7 kms. north of Ojców upon a high hill stands a Gothic-Renaissance castle whose origins reach back to the 14th century. Originally a Royal castle, for the next three centuries it was owned by the Szafraniec family. During the 17th century its new owners, the Zebrzydowski,



Pieskowa Skała. The Castle, 14th—16th cent.
photo: H. Hermanowicz

Ojców
photo: T. Chrzanowski

Niedzica. The Castle, 14th—17th cent.
photo: J. Domański

fortified the castle with a system of bastions. In 1655—57 plundered by the Swedish army, and burnt by a fire in 1718, the castle was reconstructed by the Wielopolski family. Restored and again partly reconstructed after the second world war it is about to be converted into a Museum. The gate bearing the coat-of-arms of the Zebrzydowski family ("Radwan") opens on the external courtyard, which leads you to the internal, Renaissance-style courtyard, arcaded and pillared. Beside the gate leading to the courtyard a tall attic-surmounted loggia (16th century) commands a fine view of the Prądnik valley. The loggia as well as the Renaissance mascarons between the arcades in the courtyard, have been revealed only of late, during the last reconstruction of the castle undertaken by the State after the war.

Another curiosity of Pieskowa Skała is a huge oddly-shaped rock, known as Hercules' Club (formerly Krakus' Club).

At about 21 kms. distance from Pieskowa Skała lies OLKUSZ, an old mining town, during the past centuries an important centre of lead and silver excavation works. Protected by Royal privileges, it had flourished since the 16th century. A special statute was even issued, the "Olkusz Mining Rights". The fine 14th century Gothic Parish Church records the glorious past of that mining town.

In the Olkusz cemetery stands the tomb of the Italian General Francesco Nullo, one of Garibaldi's most distinguished officers, who came to Poland leading a handful of French and Italian soldiers, to give support to the Polish 1863 insurrectionists. He was slain in the battle of Krzykawka on May 5th, 1863.

Tyniec. The Benedectine Order Church and Abbey
photo: H. Hermanowicz

From Olkusz you have not far to go the village KLUCZE commanding the best view of the desert-type reserve PUSTYNIA BŁĘDOWSKA. This is the largest Polish area (ca. 30 sq. kms.) of moving sands, unique not only in this country, but in all central Europe as well. Here one may observe sometimes, as reputed, the **fata morgana** mirage, just like in any of the large world-famous deserts. Another peculiarity: right through the middle of the desert the small river Biała Przemsza is winding its way. There in now a paper factory in the village Klucze upon the Biała Przemsza.

The village TYNIEC lies 12 kms. west of Cracow. On a limestone rocky hill upon the Vistulan bank stands the Benedectine Order Abbey dating from the 11th century. Of the original Romanesque-style church only some fragments have been saved as well as a few sculptural details and the Abbots' tombs. In the tombs lithurgical objects from the 11th century have been recently found. The Romanesque buildings were in the course of the 15th century superseded by new, Gothic ones, and those in turn were rebuilt during the 17th century in Baroque style. Destroyed by fire during the 19th century the Abbey has been now partly reconstructed owing to a lavish grant bestowed by the State Treasury after the second world war. Extensive research works and excavations carried out at Tyniec in the last years have revealed many

Tarnów. Town-Hall Tower and Attic, 16th cent.
Photo: H. Hermanowicz

Tarnów. Old Houses in the Market Place
photo: H. Hermanowicz

Dębno near Nowy Targ. 16th-cent. Church
photo: T. Chrzanowski

interesting architectonic and sculptural details, e. g. a 13th--century portal and sculptured columnal caps.

The mysterious past of the Tyniec Abbey has provided a source of inspiration to many a Polish writer, among them to Stefan Żeromski who in his "Tale of Walgierz the Brave" evoked anew the mediaeval legend about a faithful knight and his faithless mistress.

At Tyniec you can take the ferry-boat across the Vistula and on your way back to Cracow visit the 17th century Church at the Bielany Hermitage. The church stands at the outskirts of the Wolski Wood, a natural park providing a good resting place to Cracow inhabitants on Spring and Summer days. Within its territory lies the Cracow ZOO. After the war a skansen was started at the Wood. Already a small wooden church with a late-Gothic tower dating from the 16th century has been transported from the village Komorowice near Biała along with a wooden vicarage and granary.

Not far from Cracow you can see three interesting mediaeval castles situated, respectively, at NIEPOŁOMICE, WIŚNICZ and DĘBNO near Brzesko as well as the old saline town BOCHNIA. Of particular interest is the Wiśnicz castle built in the 16th century. — At 78 kms. east of Cracow lies TARNÓW, the second largest town of the Cracow county, a fast-developing centre of industry (the Dzierżyński Nitrogen Works) as well as a town of historical interest. The charming attic crowning the Town Hall, the ornamental portals dug out in stone, the Renaissance sculptures in the Cathedral — vividly testify to the past glory of that ancient town. The

Oświęcim. The Nazi "Auschwitz" Concentration Camp
photo: St. Mucha

Szczawnica. The "Hutnik" Sanatorium
photo: D. Zawadzki

Tarnów Diocese Museum contains one of the finest Polish collections of mediaeval sacral art.

From Tarnów you can go directly by train to KRYNICA, the largest health resort in South Poland. The springs Zuber I and II supply highly effective waters for the treatment of alimentary-tract diseases. The principal town in this part of the county is NOWY SĄCZ, and near by lies STARY SĄCZ, a small town with historical houses and the mediaeval cloister of St. Claire's Order. In the immediate vicinity of Nowy Sącz lies the artificial ROŻNÓW LAKE formed by a dam set on the Dunajec river. Surrounded with picturesque scenery, it offers a fine resting place and ample opportunity for water sports.

At 61 kms. west of Cracow lies a town which has become a symbol of war and its cruelty: OŚWIĘCIM where in 1940 the Nazis had made their main concentration camp (Auschwitz), that terrible place of death and suffering. Of the over five million people, mostly Poles and Jews who had been interned at the camp, only few have escaped death. At the Oświęcim National Museum in Brzezinka visitors can see the whole horror of those terrible years under the Nazi occupation.

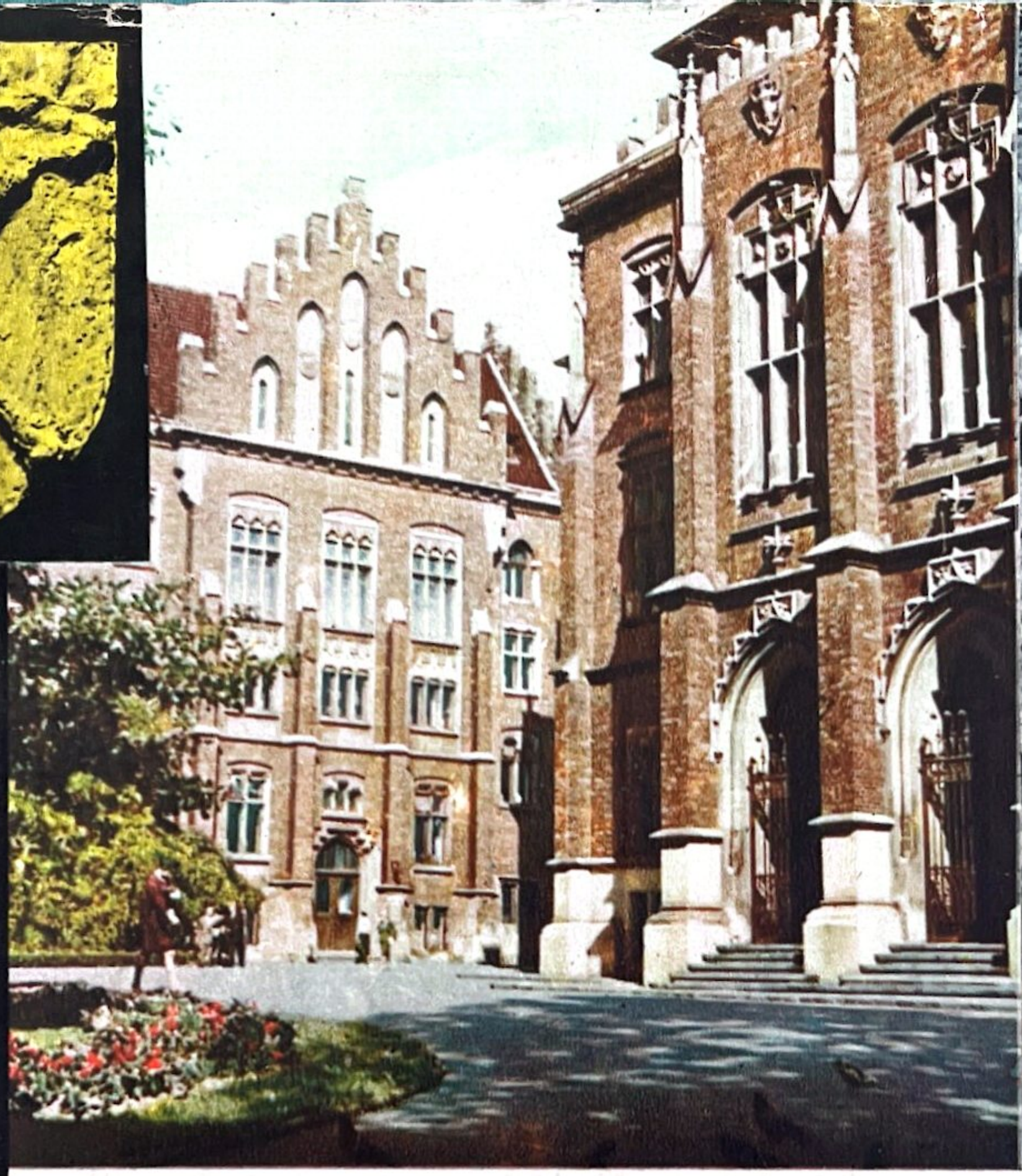
Mountain lovers will be attracted equally by the enchanting beauty of the PIENINY range, with the famous Dunajec Gorge (the trip down the Dunajec is quite a thrilling experience!) and the castels at CZORSZTYN (in ruins) and NIEDZICA — and by the lofty and rocky TATRA rising high over ZAKOPANE. The striking scenery of the Tatra landscape and Zakopane, the Polish "winter capital" attract

The "Three Crowns" in the Pieniny Mts.
photo: J. Domański

The Tatra Mts. Panoramic view of the "Morskie Oko" Dale
photo: St. Zwoliński

innumerable tourists. Near Zakopane lies the village PORONIN where the Lenin Museum commemorates the period (1913—14) during which the leader of the Great October Revolution came to stay and work at Poronin.

The visit to the region of Cracow, one of the most beautiful in Poland, is a real treat for tourists from Poland and abroad. It will be worth your while to visit those unforgettable spots.

Poronin. Lenin's Monument

Tatra Mts. Highlanders' Dance
photo: K. Gorazdowska